THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and foreign Literature, Science, and the fine Arts.

No. 997.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1846.

PRICE

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[James Holmes, Took's Court, Chancery Lame.

DECORATIVE ART SOCIETY, 20, GREAT MARIBOROUGH-STREET.—General Meeting on Wednesday unt-The Discussion will be continued upon the remarks made by Na Dwers, in a Paper read at the last Meeting, 'ON THE PROJECT OF THE ATTENTION OF

ROTAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

TWO LECTURES will be delivered before the

I members of the Society on the occasion of their December
formal Meeting, by JOHN RYAN, M.D. L.L.B. Professor of
the sixty to the Royal Polyrichte Entheliance of the Society of BOYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

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D. BURR,

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1846.

PEVIEWS

The Golden Legend of Jacobus de Voragine. Translated from the Latin. By M. G. B.— [La Légende Dorée, &c.] Paris, Gosselin; London, Dulau.

NEARLY three hundred years have elapsed since this great collection of pious legends was translated into almost every language of Europe, and perused with more avidity than a new Waverley novel or a fresh serial from the prolific pen of Dickens. The priest read some of its thrilling narratives instead of a sermon to eager congregations ;-the chaplain employed the collection to while away the tedious hours of a noble family in the baronial hall; -and the wandering friar stored his memory with its anecdotes, that by their recital he might reward the hospitality of the peasant. We cannot look at one of the old editions in gothic folio, with its black letter, quaint devices, strange contractions, and gro-tesque illustrations, without remembering that this was the work which effected the conversion of Ignatius Loyola,—consoling him on the bed of sickness when Amadis de Gaul and the other romances of chivalry had failed to divert his romanics or charly has taked to diver in mind from suffering. It was this work which changed the ardent soldier into the pious monk, the haughty noble into the humble Mendicant, and the man unknown to fame into the founder of the Order of Jesus.

Jacobus de Voragine, the compiler of this collection, was born at Varaggio, a little town on the Gulf of Genoa, in or about the year 1230. He mentions, in one of his works, an eclipse of the sun which took place in 1239,declaring that the event occurred in his childhood. In 1244, though he had not attained the age of puberty, he took the habit of a Dominican; and devoted himself to the study of theology in various houses belonging to his In 1267, he became Provincial of Lombardy :- and, according to Dupin, he was eventually elected General of his order. This we believe to be an error; for the Italian writers assert that his attachment to Ghibelline politics prevented him, in spite of his great merits, from attaining the highest dignity among the Dominicans. In 1288, he was intrusted by the Emperor, Henry IV., with the honourable task of absolving the Genoese from the papal censures which they had incurred by supporting the revolt of the Sicilians against the king imposed upon them by the Holy Sec. His conduct gave such satisfaction that, when a vacancy occurred, the metropolitan Chapter of Genoa elected him their archbishop. But he refused to accept the office,—which the Pope conferred on the patriarch of Antioch, who had been expelled from his diocese by the Saracens. A second vacancy occurred in 1292; when the Chapter, the Senate, and the people, by their united solicitations induced him to take charge of the diocese. During the seven years that Jacobus de Voragine held the archbishopric, he exerted himself to check the sanguinary feuds between the Guelphs and Ghibellines: not unfrequently rushing with the crucifix into the midst of their combats, and calling upon the factions to abstain from murder "in the presence of their Redeemer." He died in July 1298; and was interred near the high altar in the church of St. Dominic, at Genoa,-where his

tomb is still regarded with deep veneration. Jacobus de Voragine was a very voluminous writer. His commentaries on St. Augustine are said to have been very extensive-but they were never printed. Part of his 'Chronicle of Genoa' is inserted in the ninth volume of Muratori's

most celebrated work is the 'Golden Legend;' | -which, even before the invention of printing, was, by the exertions of the copyists, very widely disseminated throughout Europe. There are few great libraries without one or more manuscript copies of the work,—several of which are richly illuminated; and the decorations are frequently whimsically illustrative of the sad jumble beween Christian legend and Pagan fable which characterized the superstitions of the Mid-dle Ages. One of them, in the Royal Library at Paris (No. 6889, pp. 2 and 3), contains five pictures in addition to a multitude of vignettes. The third of these pictures is designed to represent the Purification of the Virgin; and among the personages introduced is Pluto crowning Proserpine, while Christian penitents with lighted tapers assist at the ceremony.

The English translation of the 'Legend' was one of the first works printed by Caxton. The first edition appeared in 1483—"adorned" with wood-cuts of the most barbarous taste and execution. A second edition was published in 1493; and an imperfect copy of it was sold at an auction in London in 1815 for the sum of 841. 10s. We have not seen the work named in any recent catalogue. A copy of the Italian translation, printed on vellum, brought 500 francs at the sale of the Mac Carthy library in

Francis de Neufchateau has asserted that the author of 'The Golden Legend' intended that his work should be received as nothing more than a collection of pious romances:—but this ingenious writer must have judged of the 'Legend' by quotations. Nothing is more apparent than the sincere faith-if we should not rather call it the excessive credulity—of the compiler. He occasionally points out a legend as resting only on the authority of an apocryphal book,—and expresses doubts of the truth of several of the anecdotes he has recited. His scepticism, how-ever, is very limited: for the marvels which he rejects are not one whit more extravagant than those for which he claims implicit credence. It is not to be expected, certainly, that a Latin prelate of the 13th century should have anticipated that sour doctor of the Sorbonne, Jean de Launoi—who waged such war on tradition that he was named "Dénicheur de Saints," and compared to the unromantic Vigilantius. The world has heard how Launoi found out that St. Almachius was the creation of a blundering monk, who did not know that St. Alm. was simply a contraction for the Holy Almanac :- and most of us have read how that, when Launoi visited the church of St. Eustache, at Paris, the terrified curate threw himself upon his knees before the sceptical doctor and begged him to spare the existence of his patron.

Jacobus de Voragine absolutely revels in martyrdoms. Rich as is the Spanish Gallery at the Louvre in these holy horrors, his narratives leave the inventions of painters far in the distance. Next to the harrowing pictures of physical torture, his favourite topics are the adventures and misadventures of the Devil;-that Devil with whom the mind of the Middle Ages was so pre-occupied, against whom it waged such furious war, and whom it so carnestly and heartily detested. Satan receives rather hard treatment from the worthy chronicler. Though described as a sharp hand at driving a bargain for human souls, he is invariably represented as baffled, beaten, and disappointed,—and not un-frequently receiving even more personal chas-tisement than was inflicted upon him by the inkstand of Luther or the tongs of St. Dunstan. A whimsical continental writer, in

Devil all the wonders which Catholics attribute to saints;" but in the pages of Jacobus de Vora-gine the Devil is quite as important a personage as in the writings of Cotton Mather or the early volumes of Wesley's 'Arminian Magazine.' The chief difference is, that Mather and Wesley represent him as formidable,-while the 'Legend' treats him like the clown in a pantomime, whose tumbles, blunders and mishaps are to constitute the chief amusement of the audience, Many of the stories are rather inconsistent with modern ideas of delicacy; but we shall select one that is inoffensive, as a specimen :-

When St. Margaret was thrown into prison she prayed that the Lord would allow her to see the enemy against whom she had to contend; and immediately an enormous dragon appeared before her. And as the dragon rushed forward to devour her, she made the sign of the cross, and he disappeared. Others say that the dragon had got her head half way down his throat before she made the sign of the cross,-when he vomited her up, and she received no hurt; but this part of the story is doubtful. The Devil then, in order to deceive Margaret, assumed the form of a man. When she saw him, she began to pray. The Devil approached and said, "Let what you have done suffice." But she caught him by the head, tripped up his heels, tumbled him upon the ground, and placing her right foot on his forchead, said, "Tremble, proud enemy, you are now under the feet of a woman." And the demon cried, "O blessed Margaret, I am conquered. If it had been a man who triumphed over me I should not complain. but now I am subdued by a child; and I am the more disconsolate as your father and mother are such good friends of mine." And she forced him to tell her why he had come. And he replied that he had come to persuade her to submit to the commands of the governor. Then she forced him to tell what in-duced him to tempt Christians. He replied that he naturally hated all virtuous people,—and as they often repulsed him, he was stimulated to seduce them; and as he could not regain the eternal happiness which he had lost, he wished to prevent men from enjoying it. He added that Solomon had shut him, and an infinite number of other damons, up in a copper vase; but that the Jews, imagining that the vase contained some great treasure, broke it open,upon which the dæmons made their escape, and filled the air. When she had obtained all the information she wanted, the virgin raised her foot; and giving him a hearty kick, said, " Be off, you wretch !"-upon which the Devil flew away.

Many of the legends are disguised satires: such as the following, occurring in the life of St. Dominic,—of which we doubt not that our author made good use when Provincial of the Dominicans:

One night, when Dominic was at Boulogne and praying in the church, the Devil came to him in the form of one of the brethren. The saint, taking him for a brother, bade him go and look for the others; and the Devil, in a tone of derision, said that he was just about to do so. Then Dominic took up the lamp; and raising it to the false brother's face, recognized with whom he had to deal. He seized and sharply reprimanded him; upon which the Devil said, "You are breaking the rule of silence." But the saint replied that, as chief of the brethren, he had a right to do so. And he asked the Devil how he tempted the brethren in the choir? The Devil replied, "I make them come slowly and depart in haste." The saint asked what he did in the dormihaste." In esant assected what no tail in the domi-tory? The Devil answered, "I make the brethren sleep too much; so that they get up late for matins, and, besides, are a prey to impure thoughts." The saint then led him to the refectory,—and asked him how he tempted the brethren in that place? The Devil jumped upon the tables and danced over them; and the saint repeating the question, he replied, "I tempt the brothers sometimes by making them eat, and then they commit the sin of gluttony; sometimes by not allowing them to eat enough, and then they are too feeble to perform divine service." is inserted in the ninth volume of Muratori's relating the history of witchcraft in England, great collection of Italian historians. But his says, "it seems as if Protestants ascribed to the him how he tempted the brethren there? The

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Devil moving his tongue quickly, made a confused murmuring sound; Dominic asked the reason, and he replied, "This place belongs to me entirely; for when the brethren assemble to converse, I tempt them to vain talk and idle conversation. Finally, the saint led him to the chapel; but the Devil refused to enter, and said, "This is a place into which I cannot penetrate; it is to me a curse and a hell, for I lose here what I have gained elsewhere:"—and having thus

spoken, he flew away.

Another legend has a more definite moral:-When the Emperor St. Henry was dving, a pious hermit praying in his cell saw a crowd of devils flying past his window, which was open. Stopping the last of them, he asked him where they were all going? and was answered, "We are a legion of dæmons; and we are hastening to the dying emperor, to try if we cannot make out a claim upon him." The hermit then let the devil go,-having obtained a promise that he should tell him on his return whatever happened. When the devil came back, he was very sorrow-ful: and he said to the hermit, "We have been unable to get anything; for when the good and evil which the emperor had wrought were put into the balance, the scales were even. Then they put in favour of the emperor the great golden cauldron which he presented to St. Lawrence,—and its immense weight made the scale of good actions preponderate. I was so vexed that I broke off a piece of the cauldron, and brought it away with me." By the cauldron the Devil meant a splendid golden chalice which the emperor had presented to the church of St. Lawrence, for whom he had a particular devotion. This chalice had two handles :- on inquiry it was found that one of them had been broken off and had disappeared.

Many of the legends describe Jews and Pagans as having recourse to the agency of the saints, with as much confidence in their miraculous powers as Christians themselves. This was especially the case with St. Nicholas,—the patron of all the Russias, and of all the thieves in the rest of the world. One example will suffice:—

A Jew, who had witnessed the miracles of St. Nicholas, procured an image of the saint,-which he kept in his house: and when he went out, he used to intrust the image with the care of his property,saying, "Nicholas, there are all my goods; I leave them in your charge, and if you do not guard them well I will take revenge by flogging you soundly when I return." One day, while the Jew was absent, robbers came. They took away everything on which they could lay their hands,-leaving only the image behind. When the Jew came home, and saw his house completely plundered, he addressed the image, saying,-" Master Nicholas, I placed you in my house to protect it from robbers; and why is it that you have not taken proper care of it? You shall be properly punished for your neglect. My losses shall be avenged by the tortures and beatings which I shall inflict, for on you I will vent all my rage." Then the Jew took the image, and beat it with whips and scourges most cruelly. But from this great marvels ensued: for the saint appeared to the robbers in the place where they were concealing their booty, streaming with blood, and his whole body bruised and lacerated. Pointing to his wounds, he said, "Why have I been so cruelly beaten,—and why have I cudured so many tortures on your account? See how my body is lacerated, and how my blood gushes forth in streams! Go and restore all that you have stolen, -or the anger of Almighty God will burst upon you so fiercely, that your crime will be universally known, and you will all be hanged." The robbers asked, "Who are you that hold such language?"-and he said. "I am Nicholas, the servant of the Lord, whom the Jew has thus cruelly beaten on account of the property which you have stolen." So terrified were the robbers, that they immediately went to the house of the Jew, saw how he had treated the image, and restored all his property. Thenceforth, the robbers led an honest life, and the Jew became a Christian.

Among the works enumerated by Morhof, we find a treatise on the Geography of the Infernal Regions, by Ægidius de Columna. We have made search in several libraries for this curious work,—which is said to have been illustrated by a map and plans. From an allusion in one of the letters of Episcopius, it would seem that a

copy of the work was to be found in Leyden, at the beginning of the 16th century. It was of this book that some rival theologian sarcastically remarked, that the discoveries of the locality of Hell and of America were reserved for the same age,—and that Columna had effected as much for the geography of one as Columbus for that of the other. 'The Golden Legend' is far more vague and indefinite in its account of the regions assigned for the habitations of the souls of the departed than the treatises of the fourteenth century,—as is evident from the passage in which Jacobus de Voragine gives to his readers what he obviously deems the most authentic information on the subject:—

One day, St. Macarius found the head of a dead man; and when he had prayed, he asked the head to whom it belonged? It replied, "To a pagan." Macarius then asked, "Where is your soul?" The head replied, "In hell." Macarius inquired if hell was very deep? and the head told him that it was a pit, the depth of which exceeded the distance between the heaven and the earth. Macarius asked, "Are there any others plunged deeper in hell than you are?" "Yes," replied the head; "the Jews are in places far deeper than ours." Macarius then inquired, "Are there any who are placed lower than the Jews in your infernal stratification?" The head replied, "The persons sunk deepest in the pits of hell are those wicked Christians who, having been purchased by the blood of Christ, have neglected so

great salvation.

We have abstained from quoting the martyrdoms, because we have not found one which was not too offensive and revolting in its details for modern delicacy; and many strange anec-dotes of triumphs over temptation have been omitted for the same reason. The chief interest of the work arises from its presenting to us a pretty complete picture of the mind of the age in which it was written :-- a mind entirely formed by fiction and legend,-which collected the marvellous narratives of every country, associated them with its own religious romance, and made the anomalous collection at once its articles of religion and its code of morals. Greek mythology, the Jewish Talmud, and the Thousand and One Nights, or some similar collection, have each contributed their quota to swell the Lives of the Saints. In reading 'The Golden Legend,' one is led to believe either that the world possesses but a limited stock of fiction, so as to render plagiarism unavoidable,-or that there exists some normal law of falsehood. which compels inventors to become involuntary imitators. Many of the stories in the Legend will be recognized as traditions of the peasantry in various parts of Britain,—disfigured, as might have been expected, by alterations of names, dates, and circumstances. We have devoted some space to our examination of the work, because we believe that few of our readers will have the patience or courage to read it through; and because some knowledge of its nature and purport is necessary to the appreciation of the mind of the Middle Ages, -when the "Legend' and similar collections were the favourite, and almost the only, works which formed the stock for popular reading.

Diary and Letters of Madame D'Arblay.

Edited by her Niece. Vol. VII. Colburn.

The power of "personal talk" cannot, perhaps, be better exemplified than by the existence of publications of the Boswellian kind; which, largely as they accumulate and meagre as are the contents of most, rarely fail of commanding a public. A fair sprinkling of anecdote, character, and conversation, connected with names of celebrity, and corroborated by a few letters written with a tolerable degree of epistolary smartness, will enable such a book to achieve wide reputation. The work before us belongs

to the better specimens of its class. The present is the last volume; and ranges between the years 1813 and 1840,—a period rich in all kinds of interest. It opens with some of the D'Arblay adventures at St. James's:-court scenes, in which the petted authoress rejoiced as the companion of royalty,—"wholly dedicated," as she reverentially says, "to the queen and the princesses." The seeming importance of events is in exact relation to the position of the individuals who have to estimate them; and court movements are in the Court Circular of as much dignity as in the Iliad the action of gods and heroes. Some minds are more filled with trifles than others of a sterner mould with the themes of weightiest import which appeal to them, With this excuse for some of Madame D'Arblay's revelations, we will no longer detain the reader from her volume.

Dr. Burney died in 1814. In the same year, peace was declared between France and England; and Madame D'Arblay's correspondence at this period is, accordingly, divided between joy and grief. The first received an accession from the publication of her novel of 'The Wanderer,' with a fair prospect of its producing her 3,000%. At the drawing-room held by Louis XVIII. at Grillon's Hotel, previous to his departure for France, some amusing scenes occurred:—

"We went very early, to avoid a crowd. But Albemarle Street was already quite full, though quiet. We entered the hotel without difficulty, quiet. We entered the hotel without difficulty, room of Grillon, who had once been cook to her lord. This private room was at the back of the house, with a mere yard or common garden for its prospect. Lady Crewe declared this was quite too stupid, and rang the bell for waiter after waiter, till she made M. Grillon come himself. She then, in her singularly open and easy manner, told him to be so good as to order us a front room, where we might watch for the arrival of the Royals, and be amused ourselves at the same time by seeing the entrances of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Councilmen, and other odd characters, who would be coming to pay their court to these French princes and princesses. M. Grillon gave a nod of acquiescence, and we were instantly shown to a front apartment just over the street door, which was fortunately supplied with a balcony. I should have been much ente-tained by all this, and particularly with the originality, good humour, and intrepid, yet intelligent, odd fearlessness of all remark, or even consequence, which led Lady Crewe to both say and do exactly what she pleased, had my heart been lighter; but it was too heavy for pleasure; and the depth of my mourning, and the little, but sad, time that was yet passed since it had become my gloomy garb, made me hold it a matter even of decency, as as of feeling, to keep out of sight. I left Lady Crewe, therefore, to the full enjoyment of her odd figures, while I seated myself, solitarily, at the further end of the room. In an instant, however, she saw from the window some acquaintance, and beckoned them up. A gentleman, middle-aged, of a most pleasing appearance and address, immediaately obeyed her summons, accompanied by a young man with a sensible look, and a young lady, pretty, gentle, and engaging, with languishing, soft eyes; though with a smile and an expression of countenance that showed an innate disposition to archness and sport. This uncommon trio I soon found to consist of the celebrated Irish orator, Mr. Grattan, and his son and daughter. Lady Crewe welcomed them with all the alertness belonging to her thirst for amusement, and her delight in sharing it with those she thought capable of its participation. This she had sought, but wholly missed, in me; and could neither be angry or disappointed, though she was a little vexed. She suffered me not, however, to remain long in my seclusion, but called me to the balcony to witness the jolting out of their carriages

a gentlema mfficiency. riority that it not beer as flauntin rouged and she was I nature, and appeared to I might ra volley of stunned m to denote sented me and then, at Lady Ch fe! Lad struck space open, and of stupor, any idea to ever, any vehementl such an a against the Cause! these excl till the in she stoppe spoke, loo Baron de ged his sho opening ha and gentle what mig taking any She gave, character heard just and then, far from v dressed at Britain in de M · · body else! 'I'm so g

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sitable satisfaction in visiting a King of France who had found an asylum in a street of the city of Westminster. • • A new scene now both astonished and discomposed me. A lady, accompanied humbly by agentleman, burst into the room with a noise, a selfagentieman, ourse into the room with a noise, a sent-sufficiency, and an assuming confidence of supe-riority that would have proved highly offensive, had it not been egregiously ridiculous. Her attire was as flaunting as her air and her manner; she was rouged and beribboned. But English she was not; she was Irish, in its most flaunting and untamed was Irish, in its most flaunting and untaimed nature, and possessed of so boisterous a spirit, that she appeared to be just caught from the woods....the bogs I might rather say. When she had poured forth a rolley of words, with a fluency and loudness that gamed me, Lady Crewe, with a smile that seemed to denote she intended to give her pleasure, presented me by name to Madame la Baronne de M**. She made me a very haughty courtsey, the best winter word. looked representfully and then, turning rudely away, looked reproachfully at Lady Crewe, and screamed out, 'Oh, fie! fie, fie, fie!' Lady Crewe, astonished and shocked, seemed struck speechless, and I stood still with my eyes wide open, and my mouth probably so also, from a sort of stupor, for I could annex no meaning nor event any idea to such behaviour. She made not, howerer, any scruple to develop her motives, for she eer, any scrupie to develop her indirects, lot such mental inveighed against being introduced to such an acquaintance, squalling out, 'She has writ against the émigrés !...she has writ against the Great Cause! O fie! fie!' When she had made these exclamations, and uttered these accusations. till the indulged vent to her rage began to cool it, she stopped of her own accord, and, finding no one poke, looked as if she felt rather silly; while M. le Baron de M * * *, her very humble sposo, shrug-gd his shoulders. The pause was succeeded by an opening harangue from Lady Crewe, begun in a low d gentle voice, that seemed desirous to spare me what might appear an undue condescension, in taking any pains to clear me from so gross an attack. She gave, therefore, nearly in a whisper, a short character of me and of my conduct, of which I heard just enough to know that such was her theme; and then, more audibly, she proceeded to state, that far from writing against the emigrants, I had addressed an exhortation to all the ladies of Great Britain in their favour. 'Oh, then, cried Madame de M * * *, 'it was somebody else_it was some-body else!' And then she screamed out delightedly, 'Im so glad I spoke out, because of this explanation !- I'm so glad !- I never was so glad !' now jumped about the room, quite crazily, protesting the never rejoiced so much at anything she had ever done in her life. But when she found her joy, like her assault, was all her own, she stopped astonished, I suppose, at my insensibility, and said to me, 'How lucky I spoke out! the luckiest thing in the world! I'm so glad! A'nt you? Because of this éclaircissement.' 'If I had required any éclaircissement,' I drily began,—'O, if it was not you, then,' cried she, 'twas Charlotte Smith.' Lady Crewe seemed quite ashamed that such a scene seemed quite asnamed that such a scene should pass where she presided, and Mr. Grattan quietly stole away. Not quietly, nor yet by stealth, but with evident disappointment that her energies were not more admired, Madame la Baronne now called upon her attendant sposo, and strode off her-self. I found she was a great heiress of Irish extraction and education, and that she had bestowed all her wealth upon this emigrant Baron, who might easily merit it, when, besides his title, he gave her his patience and obsequiousness."

Madame D'Arblay was disappointed, at this interview, of a presentation to the Duchess of Angoulême, promised her by the Queen-but her Majesty was careful to provide for our authoress a similar honour in Paris. The interview took place in a singular manner. M. de Montmorency had undertaken, but neglected, to introduce her; and she was, therefore, not aware that " a lady who stood at the upper end of the apartment, and slightly curtsied, but without moving or speaking," was the Duchess. We must leave Madame to finish the story:— "Concluding this to be another dame de la cour,

her composedly, with a mere common inclination of interest of the volume begins, the head, and looked wistfully forward to the further escape from Elba furnishes Madai door. She inquired politely after my health, expressing good-natured concern to hear it had been deranged, and adding that she was bien aise de me voir. I thanked her, with some expression of obli-gation to her civility, but almost without looking at her, from perturbation lest some mistake had intervened to prevent my introduction, as I still saw nothing of M. de Montmorency. She asked me if I would not sit down, taking a seat at the same time herself. I readily complied; but was too much occupied with the ceremony I was awaiting to discourse, though she immediately began what was meant for a conversation. I hardly heard, or answered, so exclusively was my attention engaged in watching the door through which I expecting a summons; till, at length, the following words rather surprised me (I must write them in English, for my greater ease, though they were spoken in French)—'I am quite sorry to have read your last charming work in French.' My eyes now changed their direction from the door to her face, to which I hastily turned my head as she added-' Puis-je le garder, le livre que vous m'avez envoyé?' Startled, as if awakened from a dream, I fixed her and perceived the same figure that I had seen at the salon, I now felt sure I was already in the royal presence of the Duchess d'Angoulème, with whom I had seated myself check by jowl, without the smallest suspicion of my situation. I really seemed thunderstruck. I had approached her with so little formality, I had received all her graciousness with so little apparent sense of her condescension, I had taken my seat, nearly unasked, so completely at my ease, and I had pronounced so unceremoniously the plain vous, without softening it off with one single Altesse Royale, that I had given her reason to think me the most forward person in my nature, or the worst bred in my education, existing. I was in a consternation and a confusion that robbed me of breath; and my first impulse was to abruptly arise, confess my error, and offer every respectful apology I could devise; but as my silence and strangeness produced silence, a pause ensued that gave me a moment for reflection, which represented to me that Son Altesse Royale might be seriously hurt, that nothing in her demeanour had announced her rank: and such a discovery might lead to increased distance and reserve in her future conduct upon other extra audiences, that could not but be prejudicial to her popularity, which already was injured by an opinion extremely unjust, but very generally spread, of her haughtiness. It was better, therefore, to be quiet, and to let her suppose that embarrassment, and English awkwardness and mauvaise honte, had occasioned my unaccountable manners. I preserved, therefore, my taciturnity, till, tired of her own, she gently repeated, 'Puis-je le garder, cette copie que vous m'avez envoyé?' civilly adding that she should be happy to read it again when she had a little forgotten it, and had a little more time. I seized this fortunate moment to express my grateful acknowledgments for her goodness, with the most unaffected sincerity, yet scrupulously accompanied with all the due forms of What she thought of so sudden profound respect. What she thought of so sudden a change of dialect I have no means of knowing; but I could not for a long time afterwards, think of it myself with a grave countenance. From that time, however, I failed not to address her with appropriate reverence, though, as it was too late now to assume the distant homage, pertaining, of course, to her very high rank, I insensibly suffered one irregularity to lead to, nay, to excuse, another; for I passed over all the étiquette d'usage, of never speaking but en réponse : and animated myself to attempt to catch her attention, by conversing with fulness and spirit upon every subject she began, or led to; and even by starting subjects myself, when she was silent. This gave me an opportunity of mentioning many things that had happened in Paris during my long ten years' uninterrupted residence, which were evidently very interesting to her. Had she become grave or inattentive, I should have drawn back; but, on the contrary, she grew more and more éveillée, and her countenance was lighted up with the most encouraging approval."

Bonaparte's escape from Elba furnishes Madame D'Arblay with an exciting topic. The state of the French mind on the occasion was, nevertheless, at the time so apathetic as—though easily to be ac-

counted for-to appear marvellous:-"I often reflected," writes Madame d'Arblay, upon the difference that would have appeared in the two nations of France and England under similar circumstances: had an invader of any name or renown effected a footing on any part of our coast, what a ferment would instantly have been excited in our metropolis! Not a street but would have rung with cries of news, true or false; not a mailcoach would have appeared but the populace would have stopped it for information; and not an hour would have passed without some real or pretended courier let loose upon the multitude, to convey or to invent intelligence. Few at such momentous periods are fastidious with respect to truth; something fresh to feed conjecture suffices to appease the famine of ignorance; for on such occasions we loathe tacitur-nity far more than falsehood. But when Bonaparte actually arrived at Lyons the face of affairs changed. Expectation was then awakened, consternation began to spread, and report went rapidly to her usual work of now exciting nameless terror, and now allaying even reasonable apprehension. The 18th of March all hope disappeared. From north, from south, from east, from west, alarm took the field, danger flashed its lightnings, and contention growled its thunders: yet in Paris there was no rising, no disturbance, no confusion-all was taciturn suspense, dark dismay, or sullen passiveness. The dread necessity which had reduced the King, Louis XVIII., to be placed on his throne by foreigners would have annihilated all enthusiasm of loyalty, if any had been left by the long underminings of revolutionary principles. What a day was this of gloomy solitude! Not a soul approached me save, for a few moments, my active Madame d'Henin, who came to tell me she was preparing to depart, unless a successful battle should secure the capital from the conqueror. I now promised that, if I should ultimately be compelled to fly my home, I would thankfully be of her party; and she grasped at this engagement with an eagerness that gave proof of her sincere and animated friendship. This intimation was balm to the heart of my dearest partner, and he wished the measure to be executed and expedited; but I besought him, as he valued my existence, not to force me away till every other resource was hopeless. passed the day almost wholly at the barracks. he entered his dwelling in La Rue de Miromenil, it was only upon military business, and from that he could spare me scarcely a second. He was shut up in his library with continual comers and goers; and, though I durst not follow him, I could not avoid gathering, from various circumstances, that he was now preparing to take the field, in full expectation of being sent out with his comrades of the Guard to check the rapid progress of the invader. I knew this to be his earnest wish, as the only chance of saving the king and the throne; but he well knew it was my greatest dread, though I was always silent upon the subject, well aware that, while his honour was dearer to him than his life, my own sense of duty was dearer to me also than mine. While he sought, therefore, to spare me the view of his arms and warlike equipage and habiliments, I felt his wisdom as well as his kindness, and tried to appear as if I had no suspicion of his proceedings, remaining almost wholly in my own room, to avoid any acci dental surprise, and to avoid paining him with the sight of my anguish. I masked it as well as I could for the little instant he had from time to time to spare me; but before dinner he left me entirely, having to pass the night à cheval at the barracks, as he had done the preceding night at the Tuilerics."

Madame D'Arblay further expatiates on her terrors; and then continues:-

"I come now to the detail of one of the most dreadful days of my existence, the 19th of March, 1815, the last which preceded the triumphant return of Bonaparte to the capital of France. Little, on its opening, did I imagine that return so near, or believe from my internal persuasion that ultimately I was to be presented to M, de Montmorency, I approached tract. From this point, however, the great resistance. General d'Arblay, more in the way of

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immediate intelligence, and more able to judge of its result, was deeply affected by the most gloomy prognostics. He came home at about six in the morning, harassed, worn, almost wasted with fatigue, and yet more with a baleful view of all around him, and with a sense of wounded military honour in the inertia which seemed to paralyse all effort to save the king and his cause. He had spent two nights following armed on guard, one at the Tuileries, in his duty of garde du corps to the king; the other on duty as artillery captain at the barracks. He went to bed for a few hours; and then, after a wretched breakfast, in which he briefly narrated the state of things he had witnessed and his apprehensions, he conjured me, in the most solemn and earnest manner, to yield to the necessity of the times, and consent to quit Paris with Madame d'Henin, should she ulti-mately decide to depart. I could not, when I saw his sufferings, endure to augment them by any further opposition; but never was acquiescence so pain-To lose even the knowledge whither he went, or the means of acquainting him whither I might go myself-to be deprived of the power to join him, should he be made prisoner-or to attend him, should he be wounded.....I could not pronounce my con-sent; but he accepted it so decidedly in my silence that he treated it as arranged, and hastened its confirmation by assuring me I had relieved his mind from a weight of care and distress nearly intolerable. As the wife of an officer in the king's body guard, in actual service, I might be seized, he thought, as a kind of hostage; and might, probably, fare all the worse for being also an Englishwoman. He then wrote a most touching note to the Princesse d'Henin, supplicating her generous friendship to take the charge, not only of my safety, but of supporting and consoling me. After this he hurried back to the Tuilcries for orders, apparently more composed; and that alone enabled me to sustain my so nearly compulsory and so repugnant agreement. His return was speedy: he came, as he had departed, tolerably composed; for he had secured me a refuge, and he had received orders to prepare to march—to Melun, he concluded, to encounter Bonaparte, and to battle for certain news had arrived of the invader's rapid approach. All attempt to conceal this from me must now be in vain; he acted more nobly by himself and by his wife; for in openly and cheerfully and with rising hope, acknowledging it was for the field that he now left me, he called upon me to exert my utmost courage, lest I should enervate his own. To such a plea had I been deaf, I had indeed been unworthy his honoured choice, and I should have forfeited for ever the high opinion it was my first pride to see him cherish of his grateful partner. The event, there-fore, seeming inevitable, I suddenly called myself to order, and curbing every feeling that sought vent in The event, theretenderness or in sorrow, I resolved that since I must no longer hang upon him for protection or for hap-piness, I would at least take care not to injure him in his honour or his spirits. At half-past two at noon, it was expected that the body-guard would be put in motion. Having told me his history, he could not spare me another moment till that which preceded his leaving home to join the Duc de Luxembourg's company. He then came to me with an air of assumed serenity, and again, in the most kindly, soothing terms, called upon me to give him an example of courage. I obeyed his injunction with my best ability-yet how dreadful was our parting! knelt together, in short but fervent prayer to heaven for each other's preservation, and then separated. At the door he turned back, and with a smile which, though forced, had inexpressible sweetness, he half-gaily exclaimed, 'Vive le Roi!' I instantly caught his wise wish that we should part with apparent cheerfulness, and re-echoed his words,—and then he darted from my sight. This had passed in an anteroom; but I then retired to my bedchamber, where, all effort over, I remained for some minutes abandoned to an affliction nearly allied to despair, though rescued from it by fervent devotion. But an idea then started into my mind that yet again I might behold him. I ran to a window which looked upon the inward court-yard. There, indeed, behold him I did_but oh, with what anguish !- just mounting is war-horse, a noble animal, of which he was singularly fond, but which at this moment I viewed with acutest terror, for it seemed loaded with pistols, and

equipped completely for immediate service on the field of battle; while Deprez, the groom, prepared to mount another, and our cabriolet was filled with baggage and implements of war. I could not be surprised, since I knew the destination of the General: but so carefully had he spared me the progress of his preparations, which he thought would be killing me by inches, that I had not the most distant idea he was thus armed and encircled with instruments of death - bayonets, lances, pistols, guns, sabres, daggers! - what horror assailed me at the sight! had only so much sense and self-control left as to crawl softly and silently away, that I might not inflict upon him the suffering of beholding my distress; but when he had passed the windows, I opened them to look after him. The street was empty; the gay, constant gala of a Parisian Sunday was changed into fearful solitude: no sound was heard, but that of here and there some hurried footstep, on one hand hastening for a passport to secure safety by flight; on the other, rushing abruptly from or to some concealment to devise means of accelerating and hailing the entrance of the conqueror. Well in tune with this air of an impending crisis was my miserable mind, which, from grief little short of torture, sunk, at its view, into a state of morbid quiet, that seemed the produce of feelings totally exhausted."

The perils by which Madame D'Arblay, left alone in Paris, was surrounded, are traced with a vigorous pencil. There are also pieces of manner and character very graphically pourtrayed. This part of the book has, in fact, all the charm of a first-rate novel;—and we shall return to it for an extract or two.

Lucretia; or, The Children of Night. By the Author of 'Rienzi.' 3 vols. Saunders &

GLAD as we are to find Sir Bulwer Lytton relenting in his determination to write no more novels, we wish that his creative instincts had taken any other form than that of 'Lucretia,' a had book of a had school.

So summary a condemnation must be substantiated by proof; and this it is not difficult to produce. Before we begin the tale, we are called upon to expect from it high and important moral lessons by the author's Preface. Why will novelists indulge in these dangerous luxuries of ante-comment or anticipatory argument? It is only a few days since we were reading George Sand's amusing preamble to her Lucretia ('Lucrezia Floriani'), which deals out hard words on the monstrosity of modern French fiction as made up by MM. Dumas, Sue, Balzac ;this by way of overture to the history of a courtezan, whose adventures are taken for granted with a cynicism more noxious than a score of highly-spiced descriptions! In the Preface to his novel, Sir Bulwer Lytton seems to us no less wide of his mark. He tells us that his object was to exhibit some of the workings of the Arch-ruler of Civilization, "Money," that demon which ruins "virtues in the spendthrift no less than engenders vices in the

"With this design," he continues, "I desired to unite some exhibition of what seems to me a principal vice in the hot and emulous chase for happiness or fame, fortune or knowledge, which is almost synonymous with the cant phrase of 'the March of Intellect,' in that crisis of society to which we have arrived. The vice I allude to is Impatience. That eager desire to press forward, not so much to conquer obstacles, as to elude them; that gambling with the solemn destinies of life, seeking ever to set success upon the chance of a die; that hastening from the wish conceived to the end accomplished; that thirst after quick returns to ingenious toil, and breathless spurrings along short cuts to the goal, which we see everywhere around us, from the Me-chanic's Institute to the Stock Market,—beginning in education with the primers of infancy—deluging us with 'Philosophies for the Million,' and 'Sciences made Easy;' characterizing the books of

our writers, the speeches of our statesmen, no less than the dealings of our speculators, seem, I ceafess, to me, to constitute a very diseased and very general symptom of the times."

In his 'Epilogue,' he adds, that "not for the coarse object of creating an idle terror-not for the shock upon the nerves and the thrill of the grosser interest which the narrative of crime creates—has this book been compiled from the facts and materials afforded to the author." Nov. as an especial illustration of the times we live in, we are bound to say that 'Lucretia' wholly fails. Waiving the misnomer of an "impa-tience" which is illustrated by a revenge spread over half a lifetime, let us ask if there have no been rogues like Gabriel Varney, willing to thrive at other people's cost, long before 'Science made Easy' was thought of?—Robber knights, who maintained their unlettered aristocracy b the aid of a commanding situation for their castles, a sheaf of spears, and a torture-chamber?-Churchmen who, when the fat lands of a franklin or a widow were in question, knew how to prescribe penances as "short and easy" as any of Oliver Dalibard's expedients? Why, the very form of crime in which these impatient "Children of Night" work out their black purposes, puts an end to Sir Edward Lytton's argument, as illustrating our "impatient" times. The two have a receipt-book full of such secrets as Borgia knew and Brinvilliers distilled in her laboratory:yet this is offered as an illustration of the Impatience of the nineteenth century! Another halt in the author's logic must be pointed out. From the very first page of the Prologue-which opens "in an apartment at Paris, one morning, during the Reign of Terror"-the criminals the book are scarcely allowed a chance of being other than criminal. The man, Gabriel Varney -who is to illustrate sensual crime-is the illegitimate child of an opera dancer, guillotined before his face: who has fallen into the hands of her slighted lover,-is by him taken to see his mother's execution, and afterwards trained in deception and cruelty. This worthy-descendant, be sure, of some Florentine poisoner -a trained physician and hard freethinker, who possesses a chest full of Murder's cookerybooks-is placed, also, as tutor over the heroine, Lucretia, the intellectual criminal; - Nature having prepared her to be an eager recipient of crime, as the reader shall see :-

"Lucretia Clavering was tall-tall beyond what is admitted to be tall in woman; but in her height there was nothing either awkward or masculinea figure more perfect never served for model to a sculptor. The dress at that day, unbecoming a we now deem it, was not to her-at least, on the whole-disadvantageous. The short waist gave greater sweep to her majestic length of limb, while the classic thinness of the drapery betrayed the exact proportion and the exquisite contour. The arms then were worn bare almost to the shoulder, and Lucretia's arms were not more faultless in shape than dazzling in their snowy colour-the stately neck, the falling shoulders, the firm, slight, yet rounded bust-all would have charmed equally the artist and the sensualist. Fortunately, the sole defect of her form was not apparent at a distance that defect was in the hand; it had not the usual faults of female youthfulness-the superfluity of flesh, the too rosy healthfulness of colour; on the contrary, it was small and thin, but it was, nevertheless, more the hand of a man than a woman; the shape had a man's nervous distinctness, the veins swelled like sinews, the joints of the fingers were marked and prominent. In that hand, it almost seemed as if the iron force of the character betraved itself. But, as we have said, this slight defet which few, if seen, would hypercritically notes, could not of course be perceptible as she more slowly up the room; and Vernon's eye, glancing over the noble figure, rested upon the face. Was it handsome?—was it repelling? Strange that in features it had pretensions to the highest order of

beauty, an to pronoun day, cluste but could between th any age, ra sien at one face. The not strong light, a far eves were ngly calm et withal. ind open le and abstra she spoke, shyness, in either on enarding ! eves upon mze impr with a stra and disple black, nor which is d The profile beauty see still more features to had somet small, but expression to the dist lated to in: but sharp onger tha but withou not natura and late vi freshness a

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beauty, and yet, even that experienced connoisseur nearly, and yes, was almost puzzled what sentence to pronounce. The hair, as was the fashion of the day, clustered in profuse curls over the forehead. but could not conceal a slight line or wrinkle between the brows; and this line, rare in women at any age, rare even in men at hers, gave an expressien at once of thought and sternness to the whole face. The eyebrows themselves were straight, and not strongly marked,—a shade or two perhaps too light, a fault still more apparent in the lashes; the eves were large, full, and, though bright, astonishingly calm and deep, at least in ordinary moments; age withal, they wanted the charm of that steadfast and open look, which goes at once to the heart, and invites its trust; their expression was rather vague She usually looked aslant while and abstracted. and abstracted. She usuarly looked asiant while she spoke, and this, which with some appears but shyness, in one so self-collected, had an air of falsehead. But when, at times, if carnest, and bent rather on examining those she addressed than guarding herself from penetration, she fixed those eres upon you with sudden and direct scrutiny, the gaze impressed you powerfully, and haunted you with a strange spell. The eye itself was of a peculiar and displeasing colour—not blue, nor grey, nor black, nor hazel, but rather of that cat-like green, which is drowsy in the light, and vivid in the shade. The profile was purely Greek, and so seen, Lucretia's beauty seemed incontestable; but in front face, and still more when inclined between the two, all the features took a sharpness, that, however regular, had something chilling and severe; the mouth was small, but the lips were thin and pale, and had an expression of effort and contraction, which added to the distrust that her sidelong glance was calculated to inspire. The teeth were dazzlingly white, but sharp and thin, and the eye-teeth were much longer than the rest. The complexion was pale, but without much delicacy; the paleness seemed not natural to it, but rather that hue which study and late vigils give to men; so that she wanted the freshness and bloom of youth, and looked older than she was—an effect confirmed by an absence of roundness in the cheek, not noticeable in the profile, but rendering the front face somewhat harsh as well as sharp. In a word, the face and the figure were not in harmony; the figure prevented you from pronouncing her to be masculine-the face took from the figure the charm of feminacy. It was the head of the young Augustus upon the form of Agrippina. One touch more, and we close a description, which already perhaps the reader may consider frivolously minute. If you had placed before the mouth and lower part of the face a mask or bandage, the whole character of the upper face would have changed at once; the eye lost its glittering falseness, the brow its sinister contraction; you would at once have pronounced the face not only beautiful, but sweet and womanly. Take that bandage suddenly away, and the change would have startled you, and startled you the more, because you could detect no sufficient defect or disproporon in the lower part of the countenance to explain it. It was as if the mouth was the key to the whole: the key nothing without the text, the text uncomprehended without the key.'

What fruit is likely "to spring from such a seed" must be as clear to the idlest reader as the red letters on the play-bill which announce to him "The Pool of Blood," or "The Poisoner's Secret Chamber." The device may be a good one to arrest attention,—but does not belong to psychological fiction. This leads us to our last remark. While speaking of the purpose of the story, Sir Bulwer Lytton assures us that its leading incidents occurred in the lives of two different criminals, and happened within the last seventeen years, - adding that the criminal parties were strangers to each other. Here, again, his thread of argument breaks: since a child needs not to be told that the incitements to solitary crime, and the temptation which fiend holds out to fiend, are generically so different, that the lesson derived from one cannot properly

Tie up Eugene Aram with Miss Blandy, Jack | Sheppard, Captain Donnellan, and other of the notorious criminals of a past day,—and what would become of all that strange morbid anatomy of the former's mind which Sir Bulwer Lytton so powerfully described in a former novel? In such combinations there is nothing left to chance or to circumstance-no copy from experience, and no psychological deduction: and we warn our philosophical novelist that he may be beaten hollow at any moment by the first writer who chooses to form a grisly group out of the Feuerbach cases. On the taste shown in the selection of such materials, we will not dwell. Sir Bulwer Lytton assures us that his motives have been to teach and to reprove: and we, therefore,

take the tale on his own showing. As a work of art-the work of one who loves to lecture on Art in Fiction- 'Lucretia' has many faults. It is patchy. After the guilty pupil of Olivier Dalibard has been disinherited by her uncle,—been left by the lover for whose sake she wished that uncle's death,—has thrown herself into the arms of her demon-tutor, in despair, though knowing his demoniac nature,-removed with him to Paris,-been taught by him how to murder, and had her own life practised against by him, -after she has, in self-defence, handed him over to the vengeance of men whose comrade he had sold—the curtain for a time falls. Many years elapse,—Lucretia re-appears in England, feigning paralysis (!) that, unsuspected, she may work her wicked will on the lover who had deserted her, and put out of her way the heirs who interpose betwixt her and the inheritance which she had forfeited; -and then, comes tamely in a retrospective episode of a second marriage and a lost child, for no other purpose, that we can see, than that of a final coup de théâtre in the way of retribution. The lost child is found in the person of a street-sweeper who owns a good heart under a rough husk. According to the philanthropic usage of these days of "impatience," he has been taken as groom by Percival St. John,—the youth to be poisoned; in that capacity detects the fraud of Madame Dalibard (his mother), -witnesses the murder of his master's betrothed, by her hand; denounces it-confronts her-is poisoned by a prick from the fatal Borgia ring-and lives long enough to drag himself dying into her presence, just at the moment when she learns that he is her long-lost child. Thereupon, she goes mad! If this be art, it is such as has been rejected from the minor theatres,-where Shakspeare has finally put the 'Red Barn' and Martha Squigs to the door.

"High-flown melo-drama" will be thought, perhaps, a hard and overcharged character to apply to the style of this work. That the reader may judge for himself if it be justified by the language in which the above events are narrated. we will extract, as an example, the passage that narrates how poetical justice overtook Gabriel Varney, Lucretia's fellow criminal:—

"Behold, that dark ship on the waters! Its burthens are not of Ormus and Tyre. No goodly merchandize doth it waft over the wave, no blessing cleaves to its sails; freighted with terror and with guilt, with remorse and despair, or more ghastly than either, the sullen apathy of souls hardened into stone, it carries the dregs and offal of the old world to populate the new. On a bench in that ship, sit side by side two men, companions assigned to each other. Pale, abject, cowering, all the bravery rent from his garb, all the gay insolence vanished from his brow—can that holloweyed, haggard wretch be the same man whose sense opened on every joy, whose nerves mocked at every peril? But beside him, with a grin of unatine lesson derived from one cannot properly vile glee on his features, all muscle and brawn in apply to the other, nor the two conditions be combunded without a falsification of Nature. the heavy eye, sits his fit comrade—the Grave-

stealer! At the first glance each had recognized each, and the prophecy and the vision rushed back upon the daintier convict. If he seek to escape from him, the grave-stealer claims him as a prey, he threatens him with his eye as a slave, he kicks him with his hoof as they sit, and laughs at the writhing of the pain. Carry on your gaze from the ship :- hear the cry from the mast head-see the land arises from the waste! A land without hope! At first, despite the rigour of the Home Office, the education and intelligence of Varney have their price-the sole crime for which he is convicted is not of the darkest. He escapes from that hideous comrade, he can teach as a schoolmaster;—let his brain work, not his hands! But the most irredeemable of convicts are ever those of nurture, and birth, and culture, better than the rufflan-rest. You may enlighten the clod, but the meteor still must feed on the marsh: and the pride, and the vanity, work where the crime itself seems to lose its occasion. Ever avid, ever grasping, he falls step by step in the foul sink, and the colony sees in Gabriel Varney its most pestilent rogue; Arch-convict amidst convicts, doubly lost amongst the damned; they banish him to the sternest of the penal settle-ments—they send him forth with the vilest to break stones upon the road. Shrivelled, and bowed, and old, prematurely—see that sharp face peering forth amongst that gang, scarcely human, — see him cringe to the lash of the scornful overseer—see the pairs chained together, night and day! Ho, ho! his comrade hath found him again, the Artist and the Grave-stealer leashed together! Conceive that fancy, so nurtured by habit—those tastes so womanized by indulgence—the one suggesting the very horrors that are not, the other revolting at all toil as a torture. But intellect not all gone, though hourly dying heavily down to the level of the brute, yet schemes for delivery and escape. Let the plot ripen, and the heart bound: break his chain-set him free-send him forth to the wilderness! Hark, the whoop of the wild men! See those things which ape our species dance and gib-ber round the famishing hunted wretch. Hark how he shricks at the torture? How they tear, and they pinch, and they burn, and they rend him! They, too, spare his life-it is charmed !- A Caliban amidst Calibans, they heap him with their burthens, and feed him on their offal. Let him live; he loved life for himself, he has cheated the gibbet,—LET HIM LIVE! Let him watch, let him once more escape; all naked and mangled, let him wander back to the huts of his gang. Le! where he kneels, the foul tears streaming down, and cries aloud,—'I have broken all your laws, I will tell you all my crimes; I ask but one sentence—hang me up—let me die!' And from the gang groan many voices—'Hang us up—let us die!' The overseer turns on his heel, and Gabriel Varney again is chained to the laughing Grave-stealer."

Of such passages as the above is the greater part of 'Lucretia' made up. Here and there, we have a glimpse of character worthy of the writer in the good days of 'Pelham' and 'Devereux'; -here and there, a mansion-interior, or a park-scene, more simply described, full of colour and grace ;-here and there a smart remark, or a simile which looks poetical, deep and new: but they are not in sufficient number to redeem the inflated dialogue, straining for effect, and perpetual exhibition of two criminals as openly propounding to each other the conditions of their hideous partnership as though it were an affair of simple commodity-not blood and poison. What may be called the comic characters of the book are failures. Gabriel Varney, the sensualist, is the best of the serious ones;—and even he is but a sketch. We will endeavour to find something better: and will, therefore, give the description of Gabriel Varney's uncle, the rakish painter, -who is merely a passing figure :

"A painter stood at work at the easel; his human model before him. He was employed on a nymph -the Nymph Galatea. The subject had been taken ugliness of Polyphemus the lover-in the grace and suavity and unconscious abandonment of the nymph, sleeking her tresses dripping from the bath. The painter, on a larger canvas (for Salvator's picture, at least, the one we have seen, is among the small sketches of the great artistic creator of the romantic and grotesque), had transferred the subject of the master; but he had left subordinate the landscape and the giant, to concentrate all his art on the person of the Nymph. Middle-aged was the painter, in truth; but he looked old. His hair, though long, was grey and thin; his face was bloated by intemperance; and his hand trembled much, though from habit no trace of the tremor was visible in his work. A boy, near at hand, was also employed on the same subject, with a rough chalk and a bold freedom of touch. He was sketching his design of a Galatea and Polyphemus on the wall: for the wall was only whitewashed, and covered already with the multiform vagaries whether of master or pupils; caricatures and demigods, hands and feet, torsos and monsters, and Venuses—the rude creations, all mutilated, jarring, and mingled, gave a cynical, mocking, devil-maycare kind of aspect to the sanctum of art. It was like the dissection-room of the anatomist. The boy's sketch was more in harmony with the walls of the studio than the canvas of the master. His nymph, accurately drawn from the undressed proportions of the Model down to the waist, terminated in the scales of a fish. The forked branches of the trees stretched weird and imp-like as the hands of skeletons. Polyphemus, peering over the rocks, had the leer of a demon; and in his gross features there was a certain distorted, hideous likeness of the grave and symmetrical lineaments of Oliver Dalibard. All around was slovenly, squalid, and poverty-stricken; rickety, worn-out, rush-bottom chairs; unsold, unfinished pictures, pell-mell in the corner, covered with dust; broken casts of plaster: a lay-figure battered in its basket-work arms, with its doll-like face, all smudged and besmeared: a pot of porter and a noggin of gin on a stained deal table, accompanied by two or three broken, smoke-blackened pipes, some tattered song-books, and old numbers of the Covent Garden Magazine, betrayed the tastes of the artist, and accounted for the shaking hand and the bloated form. A jovial, disorderly, vagrant dog of a painter, was Tom Varney!— a bachelor, of course—humorous and droll—a boon companion, and a terrible borrower: clever enough in his calling; with pains and some method, he had easily gained subsistence and established a name; but he had one trick that soon ruined him in the business-part of his profes-He took a fourth of his price in advance; and having once clutched the money, the poor customer might go hang for his picture! The only things Tom Varney ever fairly completed were those for which no order had been given; for in them, somehow or other, his fancy became interested, and on them he lavished the gusto which he really possessed. But the subjects were rarely saleable, Nymphs and deities undraperied, have few worshippers in England amongst the buyers of 'furniture pictures.' And, to say truth, nymph and deity had usually a very equivocal look; and if they came from the gods, you would swear it was the gods of the galleries of Drury. His most profitable performances were small paintings on ivory, which were caught at by jewellers, and sold, in snuff-boxes, to elderly gentlemen. When Tom Varney sold a picture, he lived upon clover till the money was gone. Gay time for his models; for he had the weakness, unbecoming an artist, to fall in love with his Fornarinas; and as he had not the personal graces of Raffaelle, the Fornarinas were expensive bonnes fortunes. But the poorer and less steady alumni of the rising school, especially those at war with the Academy from which Varney was excluded, pitied, despised, yet liked and courted him withal. In addition to his good qualities of blithe song-singer, droll story-teller, and stanch Baccha-nalian, Tom Varney was liberally good-natured in communicating instruction really valuable to those who knew how to avail themselves of a knowledge he had made almost worthless to himself. He was a shrewd, though good-natured critic, had many little secrets of colouring and composition, which an invitation to supper, or the loan of ten shillings, was sufficient to bribe from him. Ragged, out of

elbows, unshaven, and slipshod, he still had his set, | amongst the gay and the young—a precious master, a profitable set, for his nephew, Master Honoré Gabriel! But the poor rapscallion had a heart larger than many honest painstaking men. As soon as Gabriel had found him out, and entreated refuge from his fear of his father, the painter clasped him tight in his great slovenly arms, sold a Venus halfprice, to buy him a bed and a wash-stand, and swore a tremendous oath, 'that the son of his poor guillotined sister should share the last shilling in his pocket-the last drop in his can.'

Had 'Lucretia' contained more teristic sketches like these, we might have rejoiced to find Sir Bulwer Lytton again in the field of fiction. In the excitement which is due to strong and progressive interest, he must vield the palm to his French contemporaries; to the devices of M. Sue's Rodin, or to the poisoning scenes in the 'Count of Monte Christo.' But when it suits his humour to be shrewd, sarcastic, or genteel-he has a path and a manner of his own in which he is not excelled. By following the one, and giving fair play to the other, he would best consult the permanence of his reputation,-which is perilled by the present

The Comic Almanack for 1847. By Rigdum Funnidos, Gent. Bogue.

The 'Comic Almanack' for the coming year presents itself to us with more than ordinary claims, - being illustrated by George Cruikshank, and conducted (the advertisements inform us) by the projector and original editor of Punch. On each of the year's grave monthly registers one and the other have written their own pleasant characters. Cruikshank has lavished pictorial fun—and something better— on the calendar; and the "Punch projector's" letterpress-which gathers from the errors of the past pleasantries for the future - is further illustrated by marginal vignettes, scattered in profuse arabesque by the same artist-philosopher on every page. This mingling of morals in the modern almanack has deeper meanings than obtrude themselves to every purchaser. The very act of reference by which the lapses of time are distinctly marked, has its sadder suggestion relieved by a joke; and deeds that were folly in their action, become wisdom in this form of their presentment on the satirist's page. The mingled matter of the present number has in it more than usual of carnest. Its very jests smack of the serious and practical. The first caricature, in two parts, exhibits in the upper a street row-and in the lower a policeman dining with the maid-servant in the kitchen: and this is the answer to the inquiry, "Where can the police be?" The 'Scholastic Hen and her Chickens'—the 'Desecration of the Bright Poker'-and the 'S ag, the Bull, and the Bear'-are all provocative of laughter. But one bi-parted illustration, suggested by an advertisement of poor Haydon's, entitled 'Born a Genius and born a Dwarf,' awakens melancholy reflections—almost beyond the licence of a 'Comic Almanack.' Its moral is too sad and "grave" to mingle with the "gay" that comes under a title so especially suggestive. One of the heroes of that bitter comparison is General Tom Thumb: but we will rather present him to our readers amid his own correlatives than in that sad and harrowing companionship. There, he rides his hobby-horse without treading on the heart of genius :-

" A Meeting of the real bipeds, or little human beings who run about upon two feet, was held at the Lilliputian Warehouse, in New-street, Covent-garden, to move an address of thanks to her Majesty, for her liberal patronage of the least of the Rational Animals. General Tom Thumb, L.S.D., was unanimously voted to the Child's Chair; and the busi-

ness of the Meeting having been opened by the Small Germans, the General rose a few indeto address his brother Homuncules. He said ther had met to offer up an act of gratitude from the Shortest men to the Highest Personage in the Realm_to her who had refused to patronize every. thing great, and had stooped to take them by the hand-to her who had originally given them that lift, which had caused them_short as they were_ to be looked up to by_Lovely Woman. would be happy to favour the Company with God Save the Queen, gratis.—The English Tom Thumbhere rose to rebut the General's assertions, and was proceeding to complain of the want of patronage offered to native insignificance, when he was carried out. _ The Highland Dwarfs, in a Scotch accent, a broad as their size would admit, said, 'A' the Gen'ral had drapt was unco true. When they left the Land of Cakes, they could hardly raise a Bawbee among them, and now they could put down a 1,000% any day. The Boshie Men, or Pigmy Race, through their interpreter, stated, they were happy to find that, though the Dwarfs had come over to England little by little, they now formed so large a Body.

Don Francisco Hidalgo said, 'Dat as el smallest man in el world, he objec' to el proceed; for he never met vith el couragement el dam Dom Dum speak of.'-The little Men here got to very high words, and the meeting broke up in confusion

The 'Battle with Billingsgate' is a tilting against a certain class of literary champions, whom we hope to see "go down" before this and the other good weapons that are drawn

against them :-

It was the Christmas Holidays,
And scated in the Pit,
A Father saw the new Burlesque,
That was so full of wit. And by him sat—in Slang unskill'd— His pretty little girl, Clotilde. Ins prety fittle girt, Colone, She heard some 'halies' on the Stage, Say they would "cut their sticks;" And one in male attire declare That she'd "go it like bricks." She ask'd her Father what were "bricks"? And what they meant by "cut their sticks'

The Father heard the audience laugh. As at some witty stroke;
And the old man he scratch'd his head,
For he could'nt see the joke.

"I don't know what they mean," said he,
"But sure 'tis some facetiæ."

And then she heard one, nearly nude, Say something else about,
"Has your fond mother sold her mangle?
And does she know you're out?"
And when the people laughed, cried she,
"Oh Pa! there's more facetiæ!"

And then the little maiden said, And then the little maiden said,
"Now, tell me why, Papa,
That lady ask'd him if the mangle
Was sold by his Mama?"
I can't tell why, my dear," said he,
"Though, of course, 'tis some facetia

e facetie." But when she saw the lady's fingers

Unto her nose applied,
"Why, 'tis a very vulgar thing!"
The little maiden cried.
"The papers all, my child, agree,
Tis brimful of facetiæ!

"And every body says the Piece, With brilliant wit is fill'd;"
"And what is wit, my dear Papa?"
Quoth innocent Clotilde.
"Why, that I cannot say," quoth he,
"But wit is not—vulgarity."

The month that is sacred to St. Swithin presents us, in this its register, with "another version of Shelley's partial view of the subject of 'The Cloud:'"—

I bring cats and dogs, and November fogs, For the folks of Cockney land; And I brew the flood of slush and mud, In Fleet Street and the Strand.

In Fleet Street and the Strand.
From my watery bed spring colds in the head,
And highly inflam'd sore-throats;
And I'm the Mama* of the had Catarrh,
And the Mother of Waterproof Coats.
I gave birth to Goloshos, and Macintoshos,
The clog—the cork sole—and the patter;
And I act as wet Nu's' to each Omnibus,
For 'tis on my moisture they fatten.

I come down pretty thick, at every Pic Nic, And throw my cold water upon it;
And delight at each Fête that is called a Champètre,
To spoil every new silk bonnet; Nº 997 I'm more When I'm the fo When And when Oh L For then And Cruiks at Vauxh

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^{*} Be pleased to give this word the proper Cockney pounciation—Mamaa! None others are genuine.

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I'm more kind to each Jarvey than was Wittle Harvey, I'm more kind to each Jarvey than was Wittle Harve When he was Commiss' oner of Stamps;
I'm the foe of Yauxhal's Grand Fancy Dress Balls,
Where I love to extinguish the Lamps;
And whenever a fellow leaves at home his Umbrello,
Oh Lord! how I chuckle and grin!
For then you may warrant, I'll come down in a torres
And soak the poor wretch to the skin.

Cruikshank's contribution is 'A Grand Gala at Vauxhall under the patronage of St. Swithin. The volume has, in fact "mirth for every month in the year."

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Christmas Books...January Eve, a Tale of the Times. By George Soane, B.A...In a preface meant to be smart, Mr. Soane explains to the world that, instead of his having borrowed from Mr. Dickens the combination of the natural with the supernatural in one and the same story, Mr. Dickens may have taken the hint from 'The Frolics of Puck, -a novel published some dozen years ago, by our author.
The claim of priority is not worth our discussing: and turning at once to this 'January Eve,' the best will in the world would want power to make us tarry long with it. The invention is at once commonplace and entangled, the passion forced, the dialogue apid. Why must the Old Man, who, in his life's decline chooses to masquerade for the purpose of trying the nature of those to come after him, be dragged from his grave once again? Why must Christmas revellers once more be racked by the sight of a pretty girl dragged to church against her will to marry a noble rake, when they know that "so sure as there is sayour in salt or scent in rosemary," the right man will speak out to "forbid the banns"?_a tragical ending being, of course, impossible to any of these holiday histories! "January Eve," is as of these holiday histories! "January Eve," is as little a real Christmas tale—as we understand the word—as one of the Barmecide feasts on the stage of a minor theatre is really made up of silver vases, hoars' heads, roast peacocks, and Brobdignag pine-

As another Christmas offering, Miss Camilla Toulmin "puts in" her Partners for Life; rendered doubly attractive by Mr. Absolon's clever and gaseful illustrations. Good saints forgive us for the ramblings of imagination! With such a title, and "the party" an authoress—was it so very wild to expect a downright tale of true love-ending with the hearty old dance of " Matrimony"? But no :-Mr. Dickens, we perceive, is to give us the love story; Miss Toulmin's is one of paternal tyranny, resent ment, and forgiveness of a cast-iron merchant, with one favourite and one proscribed son; and a pair of ministering angels in the shape of a blithe little clerk, with a blithe little wife, -who, thinking love in their orn persons better worth having than money, labour nevertheless to secure a portion of the latter for the merchant's outcast son, Miss Toulmin writes with ease, and out of the fullness of a kindly heart ; and with the powerful aid of the decorations aforesaid, her Christmas book, amongst the three which we have as yet looked into, ought to command the

To the above, let us add a few lines about two small books for children .- Agnes Loudon's Tales for Young People, edited by Mrs. Loudon, are the work of the worthy daughter of worthy parents, and warrantable for their good feeling, spirit, and variety. Two of the stories, it is fair to point out, are translations from the German. The illustrations, by Gilbert, are clever. My Youthful Companions, by the author of My Schoolboy Days, is very prosy,—and, we suspect, American. If so, it is the first stupid American book " for young persons" that we have met

Napoleon Bonaparte. His Sayings and his Deeds. By A. Vieusseux. 2 vols.—This is a compilation made for Knight's 'Weekly Volume,' forming a sort of outline biography of Bonaparte; which, it must be confessed, is written in an impartial spirit-at least with no superstitious leaning in favour of its hero. The writer claims to have put into juxtaposition those passages in the life of Napoleon which may afford an insight into his real feelings and the motives of hisactions;—to have elicited from hisconversations
"his inner life." We are not quite satisfied either
with the process or the result. That at the beginning Napoleon had not planned all that he was afterwards | profit.

called upon-partly by the force of circumstances and partly because of his own strong volition—to execute, may be readily granted. The same has been true of other distinguished men. Luther, for example, foresaw not the issue of the movement which conscience and accident, combined, occasioned him to originate. This nice balance between internal impulse and circumstantial fitness is indeed one of the characteristics of greatness. The future enlightened historian, in tracing the events of the French revolution and of the imperial tyranny that followed, may find himself puzzled in the intricacies of a " mighty maze"_but he will feel equally that it is " not without a plan." How much of ultimate action is due to accident and how much to individual foresight, may not be very accurately distinguished :- it is enough if, as emergencies arise, the hero of the period was found conceiving designs and initiating purposes by which the course of general tendency is regulated. All that can be demanded of greatness is the planning mind, not the prophetic character-not specific foresights and preparations for all contingencies from the outset of a long and chequered career. Had M. Vieusseux written under the conduct of such ideas as these we could have bestowed more commendation on his work than now we can honestly afford. As a single instance of his unphilosophic treatment, let us mention that, while in one place the author dogmatically asserts that Napoleon "had no fixed plans," he adopts in another the opinion of Capefigue, that "his mind conceived the continental system, a gigantic and impracticable undertaking,"—which, nevertheless, he carried out with a despotic energy of resolu-One such instance should have indicated to M. Vieusseux the systematizing mind: -nay, it was this very characteristic of his mind which, perhaps, led Napoleon into most of his errors.

A Letter to Dr. Faraday on Dr. Joseph Reade's Paper, showing that Radiant Heat was converted into Electricity by Reflexion .- This pamphlet refers to a communication made by Dr. Reade to the Chemical Section of the British Association at Southamptonand reported, together with Dr. Faraday's experiment of which he complains, in the Athenaum, ante, p. 966. The fact which Dr. Reade is desirous of proving is, that radiant heat generates thermo-electrical currents:—Dr. Faraday, like a sound philosopher, showed that currents of air were circulating around Dr. Reade's rotating needle; and suggested the necessity of getting rid of their influence before the rotation was referred to thermo-electricity. On opening the pamphlet, we expected to find that this had been done (than which nothing could be more easy,a glass cover being all that is necessary). But, no! the author contents himself by arguing against the evidence of his own senses. The smoke from the evidence of his own senses. The smoke from the lighted paper did flow in the direction of the rotations of the needle; and, consequently, the current of air which carried the smoke may have driven the needle round on its pivot. Certain it is, that, until Dr. Reade removes the doubt which this fact throws upon what he conceives to be a discovery, by a fair and simple experiment-he will fail to convince the scientific public by other arguments.

Hints on Angling. By P. Hackle. This is a volume of considerable pretensions aims at conveying instruction in an amusing style, and lays claim to more than an ordinary amount of information and experience, both and at home abroad. Not only are the English, Scotch, and Irish waters, but those of France and Belgium, have been put under contribution. The work is well written.

The Plough .- This is the first volume of a journal devoted to agriculture and rural affairs,—and illustrated with appropriate engravings. It directs its authority against what it calls "the empirical path of routine," and aims at scientific distinction.

The Local Historian's Table-Book. By M. A. Richardson. Vols. 3 and 5 .- The contents of these volumes are various, legendary and historical-verse The articles are such a mixture of bad, and prose. good, and indifferent, that there is no giving an average specimen. Collections like this help to rescue from oblivion much that deserves preservation; and many good ballads worth the cost have found a place in the present.

Morals of Manners. By Miss Sedgwick .- A few hints for young people-which they may read with

Observations on the Advantages of General Educa-tion amongst the Youth of the Higher Ranks. By F. B. Ribbans.—It is to be wished that the author had profited by such advantages, if he had the opportunity. His pamphlet exhibits the conceit, without

the scholarship, of a pedant.

The Question "Was St. Peter ever at Rome?" historically considered. By A. Schler. Translated by an English Clergyman.—The author of this small volume has completely exhausted the historical part of the question. Nothing that antiquity has left respecting it has escaped him; and he weighs the value of each isolated fragment of testimony with strict impartiality. He has proved, not only that St. Peter was never bishop of Rome, but that there is not the slightest foundation for the assertion that the great apostle was ever so much as present_even for a moment_in the Eternal City. The opposite assertion as to the latterà fortiori as to the former-is opposed to all testimony sacred and profane, to reason, and to common sense. The learned author does not trouble himself with the important deductions that may be drawn from the proof which he has established :- he confines himselfstrictly to the one historical point. Scaliger asserted, long ago, that whoever contended for the presence of St. Peter in Rome must have small claim to knowledge of antiquity :- and the justice of that assertion is here demonstrated. It would be well if Protestant writers would examine for themselves before adopting Roman-Catholic assumptions. Were the same canons of criticism admitted in civil as obtain in ecclesiastical questions of history, we might restore the empire of the Trojans in Britain and that of the old Assyrians in Spain.

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THE OLD MAN'S SONG OF THE OLD YEAR'S DYING.

To sleep-to sleep !- 'tis the Old Year's dving. Let me sleep till he be dead; Comfort and Hope and Time are flying—Gladness and Youth are fled. Year after year has been ushered in So many are lost there are few to win, But enough for sorrow and toil and sin: Let me sleep while the Old Year dies!

I like not the passing away from earth Of the thing we have watched so long; I cannot welcome the New Year's birth With the Old Year's dying song! Wake me at morn when the dust is flung On the ancient head that so late was young :-If rest may be where the soul is wrung, Let me sleep while the Old Year dies!

Rivers of tears have flowed to him-Strong tides of the soul's despair;
Many a passionate prayer and hymn
Been poured on his midnight air. Why have we wished that his days were o'er, When the life that goes with him returns no more? I shall miss his weary step on the floor;— Let me sleep while the Old Year dies!

Wild pulses are playing in many a heart With the hopes of the dawn to come; For they know not yet of the nights that part What the morrow shall never bring home! Their New Year friend as the old they greet; But mine are the memories sad—if sweet— That pass the new guest in life's crowded street: Let me sleep while the Old Year dies.

My heart is bowed—and my eyes are dim, And take not the light they gave: Then, call me not up to make merry with him Who treads on an old man's grave!
In the morning light of the life-long year
The outer mists themselves look clear; But I to the Shadow am all too near— Let me sleep while the Old Year dies!

In the cave of the earth down fathoms below The greenness whereon we stand, 'Tis said that a central fire doth glow, A sea-less and burning land;—
If deep in the heart such fires abide,
And the vallies stretch and currents glide That see no greenness and feel no tid Then-sleep while the Old Year dies!

Perhaps while gleams of the future's light On his forehead the New Year wears, On his forehead the New Year wears,
We may not care how the long dread night
Falls down on the old grey hairs:—
But the veil of the grave-clouds gathers near,
And the long death-silence lies close to mine ear;
So, I have no joy in the coming year—
Let me sleep while the Old Year dies!
ELEANORA L. HERVEY.

A SONG OF WASSAIL.

So the world is growing old, my Friend,-Quite grey and old?o men's hearts are waxing faint, my Friend, Good lack! and cold!

Ha, ha! I laugh you to scorn, my Friend, And I dare to say you nay— God wot! the world is as hale a world As it was in its early day.

Some eyes may blink, some foreheads droop, Some hearts wax faint and cold— Ha, ha! let them come and quaff with me This "jolly good ale and old!"

Let them quaff with me this foaming glass, Yon brave old tankard drain,— And my word, but they'll see in a trice, my Friend, The world grow young again!

My word, as the warm blood fires their eye, And their pulse beats firm and bold, They will marvel how they could e'er have dreamed Men's hearts were waxing cold.

And good my Friend, I will trust you now With a thought that is dear to me,— That this world of ours will never be found Too old for blessings three :

First, for the light of a cheerful smile; And next, for a minstrel's song;—
And last, my Friend, for fair company,
With "jolly good ale and strong!" T. WESTWOOD. THE SOURCES OF INSPIRATION.

The stream that freshens the soul to light-The flame that results through its earthly night— Can the fount be tracked where the waters well? Or the birth-place told of that secret spell !

We have looked to the hills in the cloud-robe hid-And questioned the dust of the Pyramid; asked how the soul-stirred warred and won-And drunk of the air where their deeds were done.

We have travelled, with Science, the far sea-deeps-And bent o'er the tomb where the mighty sleeps; Or followed the track of his earthly way. To seek out the home where the secret lay.

Through fairy isles have our heart-steps been In the seas that sparkle where Greece was queen— That sleep in a sunshine scarce more fair Than the shapes and dreams that of old were there.

Isle, city, and sea one answer bear-That light of the soul lies everywhere ! If true lyres be borne where the winds are high, The strings will utter a rich reply!

-But the steps of the searcher need not roam To seek for the ray so far from home; Nor mount to the hills for the harp that plays Its holiest hymn in the household ways

Where Love sits low by the cottage-hearth Or the palace rings with the household mirth-Where echoes linger from tones of yore That sing not now by the earthly shore-

Where the fierce temptation backward fled From the light that Duty around her shed— And Genius, fed on its native air, Grew pure to purpose and strong to dare-

Where the earliest chords of the soul awoke. And the spirit's first religion spoke-And seeds of beauty life's young winds brought To cast their roots in its after-thought—

There, is the Muse that sits and sings At Inspiration's brightest springs:—
For the heart and home of the True is youth, And the spirit and source of song are Truth ! Leeds.

FOLK-LORE.

Water Kelpies, The Shelly-coat, Damhesten, &c. THE columns which you have devoted to the conservation and elucidation of our Folk-Lore have proved extremely interesting to those who find a pleasure in tracing and contrasting the popular superstitions of nations ;-more especially at the present time, when the "effacing fingers" of the schoolmaster threaten to obliterate every vestige of the heathendom of our

Whether the southern part of our island can boast of water spirits I am not aware; but in the northern parts a belief in water kelpies is very general. Like many others, this superstition is, probably, fast wearing out, but, I have no doubt, is still sufficiently prevalent. There are few rivers in Scotland that are not the haunt of kelpies. I could still point out several spots on the banks of the Don, in Aberdeenshire, where within the last twenty years a kelpie was firmly believed to have his The kelpie makes his appearance in the resort. form of a horse; and is famed for dragging people into " pots" of the river, -or for seducing belated travellers to mount him to cross a ford, in which case he casts the poor wight into the river when half way across, where he is drowned. The approach of a kelpie is known by his nicker (neighing). In some parts, it is believed that he gives premonition to those who are to perish in his watery domain. Though the river is the general haunt of the kelpie, he is sometimes seen about mires and bogs. I have heard of kelpies having been seen by the Lock of Skene, in Aberdeenshire,-a small inland lake, about three or four miles in circumference. But wherever seen, the popular faith is, or was, strong that

In pool or ford nane can be smur'd Gin kelpie be nae there.—Border Minstrelsy.

Kindred forms of the kelpie are the water-horse, the shelly-coat, and the water-bull. (See Dalyell's Su-perstitions of Scotland, p. 542, &c.) The water-horse of Shetland is represented as handsome, but when mounted carries his rider into the sea. The watershelly I have heard described as Dalyell describes a monster of the Scottish seas,-"a foal, hairy, with some definite resemblance to the horse, and

totally covered with sea-weeds." The water-bull, he states, is still believed to reside in Loch Ave and Loch Rannoch. In the Isle of Man those who saw the water-bull in a field "have not distinguished him from one of the more natural species, nor have But his prothe cows any instinct to avoid him," geny always proved only a rude lump of flesh and skin without bones. In the Shetland Isles the waterhorse appears to bear the name of Shoopiltee,

Jamieson (Etymological Dictionary) thinks the name Kelpie may be derived from the old German chalp, Germ. kalb, from the bellowing noise he makes. But as the Scottish kelpie is known by his neighing, or nicker, he is, no doubt, allied to the Ies landic nikr, the German necker, and to the water-demon who under a variety of similar names appears in the Teutonic and Scandinavian mythologies Grimm, Deutsche Mythologie-under Nichus.) The Danes have a water-spirit called Damhest, whose pranks are not unlike those of the kelpies. He ap pears in the form of a handsome horse; and carries his rider into lake or sea, unless baulked in his intentions by the utterance of some pious ejaculation, intentions by the utterance or some pious ejaculation, Among other tales of the Damhest it is told, that "once upon a time some farmers' children were playing by Agersoe, when suddenly a long, white Damhest rose out of the water, and began frisking in a field. The children ran to look at him, and one of them got upon his back. At the same moment. the horse would have run away with him into the sea,-when the boy, full of surprise, fortunately called out

Herre Jesu Kors! Nu saac jeg aldrig större Hors! Lord Jesu Christ's cross! Never saw I such a horse!

and immediately he disappeared under him." Sometimes, however, the Damhest is black.

"Three drunken peasants were crossing a field, when one of them began to wish for a horse on which they could ride home together. Suddenly stood before them a monstrous black horse, on whose back they thought they could all find room; but when two were mounted, the third exclaimed, astonished.

Herre Jesu Kors! Aldrig saac jeg saadan Hors!

when at the same moment the horse vanished, and they were all three left sprawling on the ground." (Thiele, Danmarks Folkesagn, II. 291.)

Under Nichus Grimm mentions the Swedish strömkarl and the Norwegian fossegrim (p. 278); but these appear in human form, and are fond of music and dancing, a taste I have never heard attributed to the kelpie.

Under whatever name known, the habits of the kelpie or water-horse are everywhere pretty similar. He entices travellers into the water,—drowns fisher men and ferrymen,—wrecks boats and vessels,—and drags the swimmer by the heels under water.

The investigation might be pursued to a considerable extent,—but I fear to occupy your space. The kelpie superstition exists in the Highlands; but in Scotland, especially in the Shetlands and on the eastern coast, is probably of direct Scandinavian origin. Du Cange, according to Jamieson, derives kelpie from a Celtic root; but I have not been able to find the reference. Le Lupin of France, which appears in the form of a horse (Wolff, Mythol. da Feen und Elfen), is, no doubt, an allied superstition. J. KESSON.

Cheshire All Souls' Day Song.

The following lines were taken down verbatim from the lips of one of the "merry pack" who sing them, from door to door, on the eve of All Souls' Day, in many parts of Cheshire; and are, as you will see, very similar to those used in Worcestershire, and given by your correspondent, W. L. in the Athenæum of the 31st of October.

Soul day! Soul day! Soul!*
One for Peter, two for Paul,
Three for Him who made us all.
An apple or a pear, a plum or a cherry,
Any good thing that will make us all merry. Any good thing that will make us all merry.
Put your hand in your pocket, and pull out your kep,
Go down in the cellar, bring up what you please.
A glass of your wine or a cup of your beer,
And we'll never come Souling till this time next year.

· Pronounced Saul.

We are a I We have c Soul! Soul If you hav Up with ye Give us an

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We are a pack of merry boys all in a mind,
We have come a Souling for what we can find.
Soul! Soul! sole of my shoe,
If you have no apples money will do.
If with your kettle and down with your pan,
Gire us an answer, and let us be gone.

S. T.

The Fairy Banner.

While travelling in the West of Ireland, from While traveling in the West of Frenand, from Cabir-civeen to Killarney, the following legend was related to me by the car-driver. As I find your interesting papers on Folk-Lore extend to this sister isle, and have never met with it in any work on that country, I venture to send it. The road between these towns, which passes through some very romantic scenery, overlooks for a considerable distance the coast bordering Dingle Bay. At the small fishing the coast bordering Dingle Bay. At the small fishing illage of Glenbeh, a river flows into the Bay, the mouth of which is barred by an extensive sand-bank—the scene of the legend. At the extremity of this bar, on one particular day in each year, a fairy banner was wont to be raised; while the most delightful strains of music charmed and astonished the people of the neighbourhood. An inhabitant of the vil-lage, however,—one Michael Shea, a man of daring courage, resolved at all risks to obtain the banner. and clear up the mystery. He, accordingly, on a fine morning, rode along the sands on a white horse; and having reached and secured his intended prize, was about to return, when he paid dearly for his rahness, both rider and horse being overwhelmed by tremendous wave and drowned.

are mendous ware and under the banner has never been seen, nor the music heard on this coast. But a still more remarkable part of the story remains to be told. No man of the name of Shea has ever been able, from that time to the present, to cross the bar in any weather,—though it may appear to be perfectly calm and screne. If ever the attempt is made by any member of that unfortunate family, so surely will unforeseen winds or waves arise for his destruction.

So convinced are the people, now, of the truth of this fact, that any vessel entering the harbour having on board a man of that name lands him before crossing the fatal barrier.

D. C.

THE NEW PLANET.

Is our last number, we gave the heads of Mr. Airy's account of this matter; with such points of the communications made by Messrs. Adams and Challis to the Astronomical Society, as gave additional information on the question to which we now address our-

Our French neighbours, as our readers are already aware, were very sore when they heard that an Englishman had actually given the elements of the suspected planet months before M. Leverrier communicated them to the Institute,—or, so far as is yet known, had them to communicate. Very violent language, as welearn from M. Libri, was used at the Institute; and the observations of some of their journals were such as M. Arago and M. Leverrier were most anxious to disavow. We are not here concerned with either thereproaches or the disavowal. We are moreanxious to write for the astronomical historian who shall earch the old records of our day a century hence, than for our own contemporaries;—and partly because we are satisfied that under such a feeling we are most likely to write what is best for our own readers,

That M. Leverrier is, to all intents and purposes, the discoverer of the new planet, is beyond a doubt. Noevidence in his favour can be stronger than that of Messrs. Adams, Challis, and Airy. That it is quite within probability that it might have been discovered in November 1845, from the true elements given by Mr. Adams in October, is stated by Mr. Airy,—and fully believed by us, at least. That it was on Mr. Challis's papers before it had been seen abroad, is also certain. Why, then, is this remarkable discovery French—and not English? Simply because, as we surmised last week, there is not sufficient faith in mathematics among the mathematicians of this country. We should not say this upon one insance, involving only three men:—we know it, otherwise. Our men of science too often think it vise and practical to doubt results of pure mathematics:—and the French, who run into the other extreme, have a decided triumph in this instance.

The result will do much good amongst us. Few of our philosophers are deep mathematicians; and those who aspire to the character without laying the foundation of exact science are apt to take a tone with respect to it to which its cultivators have deferred until their deference has acted on their own minds, and affected the rising generation. In one sense, we rejoice at the check which this spirit has received. For a long time to come, and in every instance in which it shall show itself, it will be put down by the magic of the single word Leverrier.

Sir John Herschel, who declared at the British Association that the movements of the planet had been felt (on paper, mind!) with a certainty hardly inferior to that of ocular demonstration, is precisely the person who, thirteen years ago, (Cab. Cycl. Astronomy, p. 5) published what, we have no doubt, was meant for a rebuke to this want of faith, and also to the confidence of those who made themselves judges of what they could not possibly understand.

Now, with regard to the scientific conduct of the Englishmen concerned in this matter. Apart from that want of confidence in their own tools which they share with nearly the whole scientific world in this country, we see nothing which any one has a right to censure, or even to depreciate. There is an impression on the minds of many that the Astronomer Royal is the person to whom the loss of priority is due. That there was a prima facie case against him he himself seems to have felt; as appears by the personal defence which those who read our abstract of last week will see him to have made.

And, indeed, upon a general knowledge of the mere
fact that Mr. Adams had communicated his results in the autumn of last year to the Greenwich Observatory, and the Astronomer Royal had allowed months to elapse without either looking for the planet or publishing those results, it is clear that an answer was wanted. That answer might have been that the Government had taken him off his work to decide between the broad and narrow gauges :and if it had been, there would have been no wonder. But Mr. Airy proves that, he needs so such excuse. On receiving Mr. Adams's communication of results (and results only) he writes immediately to know whether those results were based upon the considera-tion of the difficulties in the distance of Uranus, as well as those of *longitude*. A real new planet would remove both: but a planet founded upon one only might have been as fictitious as the Ptolemaic hypothesis,—of which it was precisely the great difficulty that it was adapted only to explain the motions in longitude, and wholly inefficient towards explaining those in distance. That one planet should explain all irregularities was the main condition. And Mr. Adams's short paper contained no other comparisons than those of theoretical and observed longitudes. From some cause not yet explained, Mr. Airy got no reply. When, to his surprise, Leverrier sent him much the same computed place of the planet as Mr. Adams had done, he sent to the former the same question as he had to the latter. The answer was so precise and immediate, that if M. Leverrier had been prescient of what was to come to pass he could not have done better. Within a week after the receipt of this communication, Mr. Airy-whose bias it has always been to believe the thing impossible-wrote to Mr. Challis to propose that the latter should undertake the search with the optical power of the Northumberland Equatoreal,—and with an offer of an assistant for the purpose. What could he have done more? With a prepossession against the whole thing, he swayed round when two independent computers agreed,-the moment one of them so much as said he had taken a complete method. From that moment, he turned his thoughts to the discovery as a thing that was certainly to come to pass.

Next, with regard to Mr. Adams. We have no proof that Mr. Adams had, before he commenced his positive researches, so completely proved his negative as M. Leverrier had done. The latter was perhaps delayed by first making sure that the existing theory of Uranus would not explain the discordancies. All we know is, that most assuredly Mr. Adams was in possession of the elements of the new planet three quarters of a year before M. Leverrier announced them; and that he communicated these elements to the directors of the two largest observatories in England. Nothing can destroy or rebut the evidence

the new body, or place him much below the position of the first discoverer. He has made himself a great reputation: and, if what we have heard stated be true_that he formed his plan, and commenced his researches, while he was yet an under-graduate, he is an extraordinary instance of early sagacity and perseverance. It yet remains to be seen whose elements are most correct; it yet remains to be seen which employed most skill in obtaining them. But it must be admitted that the want of an answer to Mr. Airy's question makes his publication less perfect, and furnishes presumption of a good reason for its being so. From a sentence in the abstract of Mr. Adams's paper, which we overlooked last week, it seems to us that he did only consider perturbations in longitude. It was a mere question of luck at the last; and if the Cambridge Library had possessed the twenty-first hour of the Berlin star-maps, Adams and Leverrier would have changed places. But, as it is, priority is on the side of Leverrier :- and in matters of discovery the rule is strict. And more, nothing but national feeling could wish the matter altered; for, from beginning to end, there is not a flaw nor a crack in Leverrier's proceedings. He began rightly; he proved that what we had would not do, before he presumed what we had not: he published his results as they were obtained:—and his confidence in himself and his methods, with such excellent reasons for it, casts a lustre over his career which will never disappear.

Of Mr. Challis, it must be observed that he was,

Of Mr. Challis, it must be observed that he was, from the first, the agent, if we may so speak, both of Mr. Adams and M. Leverrier; though he found what turns out to be the planet twice by the help of the former before he adopted (or even received) the suggestions of the latter:—for Mr. Airy did not propose the trial till he was fortified by the agreement of the French and English computed places. No praise can be too high for the spirit with which Mr. Challis undertook to add this search to his already more than sufficient duties. With two assistants, he is the director of, and workman in, an observatory which has three large instruments—each of which is quite enough for one man to observe with, and reduce the observations. Not believing that the planet would turn out to be so large (an opinion which, be it remembered, was founded by Leverrier on a pure hypothesis about its density), he set to work to discover a small one; and picked it, on that supposition, out of three thousand stars. He had, as he says, actually recovered it. Had he died the moment after, there were the means of detecting the motion of the star on his papers;—and this before, on reading Leverrier's communication, he changed his method, and had it a third time.

We have heard it said that he should have laid down everything, and devoted his whole observatory to this one pursuit. This is a wise world—after the event. When the cause and effect are both known, people find out that the former produced the latter. Mr. Challis had no right to lay aside all other business; and if the planet had never appeared, those who now blame him would have called him and Mr. Adams a couple of wiseacres, theoretical fools, and visionary planet-hunters. And if the Visitors of the observatory, at their next meeting, had not joined in the same cry, they would have come in for their share.

We have just seen the Comptes Rendus of the 5th and 19th of October. In the first, M. Arago pledges himself, whatever may happen, not to call the new body by any name except the planet Lererrier. In the second, without waiting for Mr. Airy's explanation, he decides that Mr. Adams is not entitled to the slightest allusion in the history of the discovery. We really must, for M. Leverrier's fame in this country, make an observation or two on these declarations.

If M. Arago choose to take out of M. Leverrier's hands the right of proposing a name for the new planet, he can do so for himself;—but he will not have any followers, even in France. Let M. Leverrier, in revenge, name the first very eccentric comet that shall be discovered by the name of the comet Arago, and steadily refuse every other. With regard to the refusal of all allusion to Mr. Adams, we say, let M. Arago refrain:—there will be one part of this matter the less subjected to his

DANTE'S REATRICE.

distorting mirror of national bias, in which the distortion is rendered less perceptible by brightness of style and clearness of illustration. We should be the last to deny the varied talents, deep knowledge of present science, admirable enthusiasm, and concentrated power of producing effect, which the distinguished secretary of the Institute brings to his part. But as an historian of science we hold him to be the Bailli of his day,—his mania, however, being French, and not Hindoo. And we are perfectly satisfied, as we remarked some weeks ago, that among the French themselves this Bailli will one day find his Delambre. In the meanwhile, however, we trust that M. Leverrier will not be taken for one of Arago's Frenchmen in this country. Our readers will remember that it does not follow that a Frenchman must have the weak side of a claim, because M. Arago sees what his national bias makes him see in every French claim. But we beg them also to remember how early the latter declared himself, and to what extent. His ideas are so confused by the state in which the fear of an English claim has put him, that he styles his own determination to call the planet by no name but that of Leverrier, an undeniable proof of his own love of the sciences, and an adherence to a legitimate sentiment of nationality: —and he actually prints the French of the former words in Italics. For ourselves, we have endeavoured to do full justice both to M. Leverrier and Mr. Adams We have been too long accustomed to look with no jealous eye upon the splendid successes of the French in mathematics to fear that national bias has misled us. We will not, on an unsettled point of history, copy M. Arago's "Je prends l'engagement de ne jamais," &c., with any sequence except one. We engage to retract any part of what we have written so soon as we know that common sense and common justice require us to do so.

SCHÖNBEIN'S GUN COTTON.

THE insertion in your periodical of a statement, which the public papers generally have contained, that "the result of the experiments instituted by the Government authorities on the Gun-cotton of Dr. Schönbein have induced the Board of Ordnance to decline its adoption for the use of the British military services,"—together with a letter recently received from Prof. Schönbein, requesting me to deny, if in a position so to do, the correctness of this statement,—lead me to beg that I may be allowed to put before the scientific portion of the public, by means of your columns, the truth respecting this matter.

Dr. Schönbein, while in England, was informed that his invention had been reported worthy of examination; and he was requested to furnish a certain quantity with which such trials as might be deemed necessary would be made. Various causes—among them the desire not to offer to Government the results of the first at tempts at the manufacture of the substance in large quantities, lest it might contain imperfections which greater familiarity with the process would remove,—have, up to the present time, prevented a compliance with the demand made for it. It is clear, therefore, that no experiments can have been instituted, and no results obtained from trials made with "the Gun-cotton of Dr. Schönbein."

It is true, and in your own words, that "all the world is exploding cotton;" and equally so_as you again observe—that "this is hardly fair to Prof. Schönbein:"—for no accurate conclusions can be drawn from any trial but those made with cotton prepared by his peculiar process.

With the exception of "spontaneous combustion,"
—not deemed likely to occur, but still in the course
of examination,—experiments have been frequently
made, and will be repeated, regarding those points
quoted by you as objections to the use of Gun-cotton:
and the results still offer no impediment to its employment for military purposes.

In conclusion, it may be stated, that to those acquainted with Prof. Schönbein's mode of preparing the substance, the intractable properties which the cotton exhibits when made by others ignorant of his process occasion no surprise.

J. A. B.

I cannot throw any light on the history of Dante's Beatrice. I had not been aware until very recently that any doubt existed as to its " one great event :"but regarding the usually received account as au thentic, I would feel grateful for permission to record an earnest protest against the confused and exaggerated estimate which is taken by the literary public mind, not only of the three heroines of Italian song, but _apart from their imaginative and metrical genius of the poets whose verse has so exalted them. Of the women we do not know much. They all appear to have had a great deal of that graceful demeanour and personal sweetness of which some lower animals partake so largely : _ to have been keenly alive to the value of homage and devotion when rendered to them; but possessed of a large amount of worldly prudence, and deficient in the moral perception of justice that gives devotion back The best justification that I have found of Beatrice is in Savage Landor's exquisite "Imaginary Conversation"; and there she urges Paternal Will as the representative of Divine Law: __probable, but very low in the scale of reasoning animals,-quite unworthy of a woman. Of Leonora the fewer hard words the better. Her avouching the truth and love within her, if it was there, might, with that tyrant brother of hers, have brought destruction on Tasso: and of Laura I know not enough to speak. take it, the relation of these women to their lovers lowers our moral estimate of the men. It comes to me not so much as a logical demonstration as by intuition, that there was in these three illustrious writers much of self-will and disease :- of erazy craving after treasures made more costly because forbidden-an exaggeration of the imaginative and metrical portion of the being-an exaltation of the Poet over the Man, making the part greater than the whole. To my thinking, Love is not fantastic, expletive and exaggerative; blowing its own finger-tops to keep them warm. On the contrary, it has much of wisdom in its gentle eyes_regarding social fitness, domestic sanctity. It despises not the lowliest earth-work of our nature_is calm, serious, comprehensive, -a holy passion known only to moral, manly natures: and that is not a manly nature that feeds its fancy by another man's wife, as did Dante,or takes another woman for his mistress, en attendant, R.A. as did Petrarch.

THE LOGIC OF CHEMISTRY.

I did not intend to trouble you with another word on the above subject; but, as "Juvenis" has brought against me the very weapons and arguments which I thought I had used against the general opinions in chemistry, it seems but fair that I should explain that what I had said about oxygen applies to all other bodies, similarly circumstanced, wherein the presumed base is mere hypothesis:—

Ex uno disce omnes.

Controversy is distasteful to me; but I think it proper to say, that my letters throughout intended to prove that oxygen, divested of heat, light, electricity, &c., which make it gaseous, as taught in the schools from Lavoisier to the present day, has been considered ponderable, and as such I denied its existence. In proof of this opinion of the schools, the increase of weight in oxydes has been attributed to the addition of oxygen to the metals.

It appears to me, that what Dr. Faraday has said respecting the nucleus of certain bodies, might be advantageously applied much more generally:—but the subject of the constitution of matter, whether by powers (radiation), or by solid atoms, is too illimitable for me to discuss; although my experience (however small it may be) leads me to believe that the former are far more consistent with facts than the latter. Indeed, "Juvenis" has added much to the doctrine of Powers, or forces:—which, by radiating and expanding under every variety of resistance, clear our ideas and views in respect to attraction, elective or otherwise,—and indeed, all other chemical abstractions, which have occupied so much attention in the philosophic world.

The present practical age, abounding as it does with so many brilliant discoveries, could receive no detriment from discussions in regard to principles;

and it would be greatly to the advantage of science if one so capable as "Juvenis" appears to be would turn his mind to the establishment of some general Law in Chemistry, as comprehensive as that of graitation.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

Our readers will be glad to have observed that there is now an apparent probability of Mr. Rowland Hill's scheme of Post-Office reformation being carried out in its integrity; a new place in the Post-Office management—that of Secretary to the Postmaster-General—having been especially created for him, with a salary of 1,200/. a-year—and we believe with the above object.—It may be convenient, too, to some of our readers to be informed that letters to and from Prussia may be sent in future without the necessity of prepayment of postage:—an agent from the Berlin Post-Office having returned to that capital from London, after concluding a postal convention to such effect.

Letters from Paris announce the death of one of the most eminent of modern historians, the professor of that science in the Collège de France-M. Michelet. Michelet was the son of a printer; and learned composition, in the most technical sense of the word, in his father's printing office. His youth tasted of the bitterness which poverty brings; but the College of Charlemagne furnished him with intellectual food while the supply of his natural hunger was poor and often scanty. His philosophical proficiency for him a professorship in the Ecole Normale: which he quitted, in 1837, for a place in the Archives :- and in 1838, he was elected to the professorship in the Collège de France which he held till his death, Michelet is well known throughout Europe by his philosophical writings ; and yet more so, perhaps, by the steady and bitter battle which, in conjunction with his brother-professor Quinet, he maintained against the Jesuits, who had made an assault upon his professorial chair. The books which arose out of that controversy, at the bidding of his brilliant pen, have planted a sting in the side of Jesuitism which their manifest exaggerations and rancorous spirit could not heal while he lived, and which his death The polemical argument against will not relieve. priesteraft which lives after him, in spite of its taint of personality is a more destructive one than any that the Jesuits succeeded in suppressing from his chair; and will find readers far beyond the circle to which his graver and more unimpassioned productions appeal .- In the same city, the grammarian Le Tellier has just died, at the age of 70.

The Augsburg Gazette gives the particulars of the melancholy death, at Tarnopol, a town in Galicia, of a young German poet, Alwin Reinbold,-who perished in the attempt to save a fellow-creature from drowning. All the population of the town attended him to his grave.—At Brussels is recorded the death, at the age of 44, of Mr. C. A. Gore, the husband of the clever and popular novelist of that name; himself the translator of Victor Hugo's 'Rhine' and of the Comte de St. Priest's 'De la Royanté.'-At home, we have as additions to this obituary paragraph the names of Captain Manby, the well-known inventor of the life-rope which has saved so many a shipwrecked mariner; _ who died at Cheltenham, in the 76th year of his age : and of John Russell, Esq. the author of 'A Tour in Germany' and other works whose long illness has terminated fatally at Helensburg, in Dumbartonshire.

The late Mr. Edward Rudge, of Abbey Manor Hous, in Worcestershire, has left a sum of 2001, to found a gold medal to be called "The Linnæan Medal," and be awarded by the President and Council to the Fellow of the society who shall write the best communication in each volume, and which shall be published by the society, in either of the four departments of Natural History. Each gold medal is to contain on one side a profile bust of Linnæus in his fall dress,—encircled by his name and the dates of his birth and death. On the obverse is to be eggraed the name of the Fellow of the society to whom the medal is awarded,—encircled by a wreath of the Linnæa Borealis.

The whaling vessels arrived, this year from Davis's Straits, bring no intelligence whatever of Sir John Franklin and his companions. The Terror and Erebus are supposed to be up in Lancaster Sound:

but, on accou none of the search of ther during the se A circular Clarke,-to debted for ou upon the W monument t banaur which nisite creat fancy seems, sterner sex regard to all rule_it is no the Minnesin to his tomb 1 songs had be on the other

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The Revue has been four into Lake S hoen discover statement, tl Falls of Nia when rapidi old wonders and, therefor live one." rican newsp destroy a ca invent one: for a parage sation in repr for another. The Poet week, was, a Romantie S

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but, on account of the great body of ice to the north, none of the whalers had this year penetrated in gearch of them—and nothing had been heard of them during the season.

daring the season.

A circular is abroad, signed by Mrs. Cowden Clarke,—to whom it will be remembered we are indebted for our 'Concordance of Shakspeare,'—calling upon the Women of England to unite in a ladies' monument to that poet:—on the strength of the honour which he has done to womanhood by his excapite creations of the sex. Picturesque as this fancy seens,—and visionary perhaps, to those of the stener sex who would enforce the Salic Law with regard to all female combinations or attempts to mle—it is not without its prototype in the funeral of the Minnesinger Henry Fraiienlob,—who was borne to his tomb by ladies to whose beauty and bonour his songs had been devoted. All chivalrous persons will, on the other hand, wish the project fair fulfilment.

The Revue Canadienne asserts that a new waterfall has been found in the River St. Louis,—falling from it into Lake Superior,—and which had never before been discovered by the geographer. According to the statement, this new wonder is second only to the falls of Niagara. We shall be glad, in these days when rapidity of locomotion has exhausted all the old wonders of the world, to stumble on a new; and, therefore, hope this waterfall may be a "real life one." But we must not forget that the American newspapers, when in want of matter, can destroy a cataract without compunction, as well as invent one: and they who broke up Niagara itself, for a paragraph, may think there is some compensation in reproducing it in the form of a smaller fall, for another.

The Poet Tegner, whose death we announced last week, was, as our readers know, the founder of the Romantic School in Sweden;—most of his poems baving episodes of Scandinavian antiquity for their subjects. Since his nomination to the bishopric of Wexioe, he had ceased to publish, but not to writecontenting himself with the circle of his immediate friends for readers of his poetry. His death will extend the andience ;-his son-in-law, Prof. Böttiger, of Upsal, having, according to letters from Stockholm, undertaken the publication of his posthumous poems. The Royal Academy of Fine Arts in the capitalof which Tegner was one of the oldest members-has put on mourning in his honour for a month; and resolved to strike a medal, as well as to have his bust executed in marble for the Academy. commission has been given to the celebrated Swedish sculptor Bystroem; and the historian Geijer, president of the Academy, is appointed to prepare the poet's funeral eulogy.

On the 1st of September last, the Sultan laid, at Cansantinople, the foundation stone of a Turkish university, with great ceremonial, in presence of the high dignitaries of the empire. The offering of twelve sheep, by way of holocaust, on the occasion may be taken as among the justifications of the necessity for an institution of the kind.—In Cairo, Mehemet Ali has constructed a new mosque, of Egyptian marble,—said to be the most splendid in the world. He has been engaged upon it twenty years; but will deny himself the pleasure of seeing its completion, since a popular prophet has declured that the Pacha's life will terminate with the laying of the final stone.

From Alexandria, it is stated that Ibrahim Pacha is about to introduce the Electric Telegraph system into Egypt—having carried with him a variety of models and plans from England, with that intention. We observed last week, in alluding to the diffusion of this system of instantaneous communication throughout England, that we have learnt to record results that could no long time since have been mentioned only as miracles, with a calmness originating in our growing familiarity with their philosophy. To restore the pleasant excitement which belongs to the contemplation of a marvel, such an expression of it as the application of this almost inconceivable power of quickening and animating to the dead and sluggish soil of a country like Egypt-this utter annihilation of the Desert as an impediment to communication is well fitted. The long waste solitudes of the East informed by this universal voice have a force of suggestion which can revive the sentiment of wonder even in minds wherein it has been destroyed by the weight of accumulated prodigy.

We find in the Edinburgh Register-which does not give its authority-the following paragraph:-"A discovery is said to have just been Natchez, which, if confirmed, will set all the geological world in a stir. On the authority of a private letter from Philadelphia, it is alleged that Dr. Dickeson, of that city, has exhumed, near Natchez, on the Mississippi, from the depth of 100 feet below the surface, a fossil human bone. The fossil was examined at a meeting held in the house of Dr. S. G. Morton, of Philadelphia, the eminent ethnologist. Professor Agassiz, Mr. G. R. Gliddon, and several other palæontologists and archeologists, were present. The fossil was pronounced to be one of the pelvic bones of a man between the ages of sixteen and twenty years. It was found amongst other fossilized remains of the megatherium, megalonyx, and other primeval creatures. The specimen has been deposited in the museum belonging to the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia."-Our readers need not be warned that this has all the characters of an apocryphal statement. The fact wants establishing, in the first place,—and, when established, will want explaining on any other supposition than that of a single example overturning the entire philosophy which has been founded on numbers. It is fair to add, that the journal from which we quote, though entertaining the narrative hypothetically, yet expresses its own doubts: -- "We think it more likely that the whole may be a mistake: for the bone may, after all, like 'homo diluvii testis,' be that of some other animal ;—or the deposit in which it is found, though close to those in which the megatherium is found, may be, in point of fact, much later."

We have received from a correspondent in Perthshire a variety of particulars relating to a shock of earthquake which was felt in parts of that county about midnight of the 24th ult.,—supposed to have equalled in intensity the most violent of the series that occurred in 1839. The atmosphere, at the time, was calm and clear; and the startled population rushed from their heaving beds into the moonlit streets. After describing the more popular incidents which followed the phenomenon, our correspondent, dating on the 29th, says: __" Professor Forbes's inverted pendulum seismometer was thrown to the west about an inch; Mr. Milne's horizontal pendulum vibrated about an inch, indicating a perpendicular heave of the ground of fully half an inch; Mr. M'Farlane's spiral wire one indicated the same amount of perpendicular heave of the ground by the concussion, and ranged in a north-west direction one inch, indicating that the stroke came up to the town from the north-west, at an angle of about 26°. The last shock, measured in the same way, gave an angle of 45°. Is the focus rising towards the surface? We will have a better opportunity of judging this when it is ascertained how great the superficial area is over which this shock was experienced. If as widely as some of the former shocks, the seat is probably still very deep ;-if more concentrated, it is nearer the surface, as indicated by the seismometer. The barometer was at 29.3 all day yesterday, and at the same this morning. It has come back to 29-24. The thermometer yesterday morning 47°, evening 49°, this morning 48°. Some lightning during the night. * * About three quarters of an hour after the first violent shock above described, there was another smart one; and half an hour afterwards a third :while in the intervals, and afterwards until six o'clock A.M., there were several slight 'rumbles,' Some people counted as many as thirty; and since, up to the hour this notice is penning (six o'clock, P.M.), there have been three additional."

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.—REDUCED PRICE of AD-MITTANCE.—Now OPEN, with a highly interesting exhibition, representing the CASTLE and TOWN of HEIDELBERG (formerly the residence of the Electra Palatine of the Rhine under the various aspects of Winter and Summer, Sild-day and Evening; and the extension of the Standard Stan

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—By Permission.— PROF. SCHÜNBEIN'S GUN COTTON, differing from all other specimens recently before the Public, is lectured on, with other Explosive Compounts, by Dr. RYAN, daily, at half-past Three, and on the Evenings of Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The principle of the ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH demonstrated by Prof. BACHHOFFNEK. The Oxy-hydrogen and Opaque Microscope, the Physiologopa, Diving Experiments, the Dissolving Views, by Charles Smith, &c. &c.—Admission, Ir.; Schools, Half-price.

SOCIETIES

ROYAL Society.—Nor. 30.—The Anniversary Meeting was held; when the Marquis of Northampton delivered the customary Address, passing under review the progress of science during the past year. The Copley gold medal, awarded to M. Leverrier was received for him, at his request, by Sir J. Herschel. One of the Royal Gold Medals and the Rumford Gold Medal were awarded to Prof. Faraday for his discoveries in magnetism, published in the 'Philosophical Transactions;' and the second Royal Gold Medal was adjudged to Prof. Owen, for his paper 'On the Belemnite,' also published in the Transactions.

The following were elected the Officers and Council for the ensuing year.—(The italies denote new Members of Council):—President, The Marquis of Northampton. Treasurer, G. Rennie, Esq. Secretares, P. M. Roget, S. H. Christic, Esq. Foreign Secretary, Lieut.—Col. Sabine. Other Members of the Council: W. T. Brande, Esq.; S. Cooper, Esq.; C. Daubeny; Sir H. De la Beche; E. Forbes, Esq.; C. Daubeny; Sir H. De la Beche; E. Forbes, Esq.; T. Galloway, Esq.; W. R. Grove, Esq.; W. Hopkins, Esq.; L. Horner, Esq.; J. A. Paris; G. R. Porter, Esq.; Rev. B. Powell; Sir J. Richardson; Capt. W. H. Smyth; Lieut.—Col. Sykes; C. Wheatstone, Esq.

ASIATIC SOCIETY .- Nov. 21 .- C. Elliott, Esq., in the chair. Col. Sykes read a letter which he had received from Assistant-Surgeon Elijah Impey, of the Bombay Army, on the subject of Buddhist anti-quities: - The writer, while his troop of Horse Artillery occupied Mhow, in Malwa, took the oppor-tunity of visiting the most remarkable places within a circuit of thirty miles, for the purpose of looking for Buddhist remains. While engaged in this investigation, he heard of the Burringui, a figure cut out of the rock in the Satpoorah range; which he determined to visit. He was much struck with the extraordinary character of the figure; which he states to be colossal, far beyond anything that he has seen or heard of in India; __its height being above sixty feet. It has all the well-known characteristics of Buddha: __the curled hair (literally, a cap)__perfect nakedness__the lotus on the breast__and the placid benignity of countenance. Mr. Impey took a sketch of this figure, as well as of a temple built upon the hill above it: and appears to have forwarded them, —but they have not yet been received. The hill is more than 18,000 feet above the sea-level; and innumerable figures of Buddha lie scattered about on the surface of the earth. The place is in the district of Nimar, in the valley of the Nerbudda_twenty-five miles from the Caves of Baug.

Col. Sykes also read a letter from a friend, mentioning the recent finding, near Junir, fifty miles north of Poona, above the Ghauts, of a pot of ancient coins, bearing the Cave character on one side,—and a head, with the Greek word for King, on the other. Some of these he promised to transmit. He states that some of the coins are of gold; but as the Government lays chain to all the precious metals found, these are usually melted down by the discoverers.—Col. Sykes remarked that the Court of Directors, on being made acquainted with the discovery, directed the Bombay Government to secure some of these coins for the purpose of extending the important collections already in the Museum of the East India House.

J. Lawford, Esq., Col. G. P. Le Mesurier, and J. Warden, Esq., were elected Resident Members of the Society. Signor Noy, of Venice, was elected a Corresponding Member.

Institute of British Architects.—Nov. 30.— Ordinary general meeting.—S. Angell, V.P., in the chair.—M. Girault de Prangey, of Paris, was elected an honorary and corresponding member, and Mr. J. W. Papworth, from the class of Associates, as Fellow.

Mr. Tite, V.P. read a paper entitled 'Some Recollections of a Course of Lectures on Architecture, delivered at the Royal Academy, by the late Sir John Soane, in the months of February and March, 1817.' A large number of the original illustrative drawings were exhibited. Mr. Tite stated that Sir J. Soane had given various lectures in previous years; but in this, they assumed their most important and perfect form. They were six in number, and were illustrated

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"The Report laid last year before the Council by Mr. Townsend, will render superfluous any detailed account of the views entertained with regard to industrial art, and the system upon which they are carried out, in the School of Paris; I shall therefore notice merely such points as it occurred to me might be of importance with reference to our own Schools, and which may be mentioned without needless repetition. "The course of instruction at Paris is divided into three main branches:-1. The Figure; 2. Orna-

ment : 3. Architecture and Geometry. These three courses of study (subdivided and classified) are taught on alternate days, in the order named, a day being devoted to each; but the limited space to which the School premises are confined has caused a most inconvenient system of taking the classes in relays, greatly to their disadvantage. The students are admitted free of charge, and no p o is required from them of their exclusive devel to any branch of industrial art; many, it is well known, pass from the elementary classes of the Ecole de Dessin to the Ecole des Beaux Arts, in order to follow the higher branches of painting and sculpture; but this is not considered to militate in any way against the usefulness of the School, as a nursery of art applied to manufactures. To extend a sound know-ledge of art in general is held to be the best mode of securing a supply of artists for industrial purposes. The only condition to which the pupils are bound is, that if they remain in the School they must follow up the whole course of study prescribed by the regulations. Exceptions are made in favour of artisans who wish to take advantage of the means afforded by the School to increase their knowledge and improve their taste. This class of students, however, have recourse more generally to the Ecole Communale, -for an account of which I must refer to Mr. Townsend's Report.

"There is one branch of instruction in the Paris School which I beg leave to offer to the special notice of the Council-a course of lectures on the History of Ornament, illustrated by examples drawn by the Professor in the absence of the pupils. These examples he sketches to a working scale, on large canvas covered with paper. They consist of a chronological series of every class of ornament, beginning with the Greek, and followed throughout all styles and all ages, explaining their origin, their connexion with each other, and the peculiar characteristics by which they are to be discriminated. Each lecture is a continuation of the subject from that which precedes it; and the Professor is bound by his engagement to vary the examples during the period of three years. This professorship is held by a pupil of M. Constant Dufeux, the Architect to the School; and the first requisite toward the establishment of a similar class elsewhere would be, to find an artist with the knowledge of ornament possessed by this gentleman united to the handicraft skill with which he expresses its forms, and brings them out in the truest effects of chiar'-oscuro by the most simple manipulation in black and white. It would be very desirable to possess some of this gentleman's sketches in our School, as examples of masterly execution in this branch of art. I mentioned this to the Director, M. Belloc, and have no doubt they might be obtained if the Council thought proper.

"An excellent plan is adopted in the Mathematical Class to secure to all the pupils the full benefit of the instructions given by the Professor. It is not to be expected that mathematical demonstrations will be comprehended by a whole class the first time of explanation; those pupils, therefore, who have understood the lesson, are charged with repeating it to those of slower apprehension, until it is made clear to every individual.

"I beg leave to enter somewhat more particularly upon a subject which has ever been regarded with great interest in our own establishment, namely, the Female School. This branch is placed, at Paris, under the superintendence of two Dames Directrices, who divide the labour of teaching. There are two classes in the day, each of about fifty pupils, a division rendered necessary by want of room for a better arrangement. The Female School has been established with a double purpose: it is calculated not only for the improvement of the arts

usually practised by females, but some prominene is given to the object of extending as much as possible the resources, hitherto too narrowly limited for the exercise of female industry. It is considered that the employments open to females, and for which they may be qualified by instruction in the arts of design, may comprise designing and work. ing in embroidery of every description, lace, gimp fringe, and every sort of worsted work; designs for everything relating to jewellery, engraving, and enamelling in gold, setting stones, false jewellery (which is manufactured in Paris to an immense extent, with great taste and ingenuity), small articles in or-molu, and the burnishing and colour. ing of metals; fancy works in card and paper, and patterns for the papers employed in them; pictoria toys for children, dissected puzzles, &c.; porcelain painting, in all its branches; lithography, and engraving on copper and wood. And it is to be observed that the Ecole Communale is much frequented by females already occupied in such pursuits, who devote their leisure hours to improving themselves in drawing; those engaged in jewellery, artificial flowers, and engraving in gold, resort there in numbers. In order to carry out the intentions of the Government in this respect, the course of instruction in the Female School includes the figure, landscape, animals, flowers, and orna-It has been noticed that many of the pupils take up especially the study of the head. the figure, and landscape, with a view to become teachers of drawing; but the course of study followed in the school is not considered to be of a nature to qualify them for this position. which requires that the elementary studies common to all classes of art should be followed up by those peculiar to the higher branches.

"It must be observed, that in this branch of the School at Paris the objects proposed are not yet deficiencies to be supplied; and lithography has not

hitherto been taught at all.

"The Provincial Schools in France are not necessarily regulated by that of Paris; and a view of the system pursued at Lyons, where the first of the Provincial Schools has been carried out to its utmost capabilities, with the most successful result in effect upon the peculiar manufactures of the place, cannot fail to be regarded with interest. But the success which has attended the School of Lyons is mainly owing to the appreciation of its importance by the authorities and inhabitants of the city itself, to the energy, with which they have promoted it, and the liberality with which they have contributed to the funds for its support. And I may here notice, in evidence of the zeal and intelligence of the manufacturers of Lyons in the pursuit of their commercial interest through the means of industrial art, a memorial lately addressed to the Mayor of Lyons, that, with reference to the new vent for manufactures opened in the East, he should call upon the Minister of Commerce to procure for the manufacturers, by means of the Consuls and other commercial agents, patterns of the oriental stuffs of silk, wool, and cotton, which can be imitated at Lyons; and it is significantly pressed upon the Minister 'that this proceeding should not be left to other nations.

"It is a fact worthy of attention, that at the foundstion of the School of Lyons the mistake was committed of drawing too distinct a line of demarcation between the elements of fine art and those of art as applied to industry and manufactures; and the first course of instruction established in the School was applied to the technical process of the mise en carte; this was shortly superseded by a class for "drawing applicable to manufactures,' that is to say, to silk manufactures; but as the pupils who attended this class proved to be already advanced in flower painting, the professor found the basis of instruction which he was confined too narrow to enable him to effect anything essential for their improvement: the course of instruction was therefore made general, by the adoption of a methodic course of ornament, applicable not only to that style of drawing, but to sculpture in wood, metal, and stone. From this period important modifications have been made from time to time in the system of instruction, so that scarcely anything is now left of the original

ing candidates for the prizes offered annually by the Institute to encourage them in that practice. MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

by a series of drawings amounting to between 400 and

500. The subjects of these six lectures were as fol-

lows :- The first lecture was an Essay on the Pro-

gress and History of Architecture generally, but more

Porticularly with reference to that of Greece and Rome. The second, a History of the Orders of Architecture, with examples from the Greek and

Roman remains, the descriptions of Vitruvius and

the Italian and French masters. The third was on

the attempts made in the 17th century to invent a

sixth order; and the principles and application of

rules and examples for the application of the various

parts and decorations necessary in Architecture. The fifth lecture was a sketch of English Architec-

ture ; including a slight notice of Norman and Gothic

buildings. The sixth contained an account of the

progressive improvement in Architecture in the 15th

and 16th centuries; with illustrations and notices of

the principal modern bridges, obelisks, and insulated

columns. Mr. Tite's Recollections were, on this occa-

sion, confined to the first three lectures of this series:

and he read from notes taken at the time by himself.

when a student of the Academy. These extracts were much increased in interest by a general commen-

tary, showing the advanced state of Architectural

knowledge and the increased opportunities of information at the present day. The original lectures appeared to abound in excellent practical precepts

and principles; and some of the passages were

marked by the great shrewdness, somewhat tinctured

with sarcasm, of the late professor. There was exhi-

bited amongst the drawings the original finished elevation of the Banquetting House at Whitehall,

for which Sir J. Soane obtained the silver medal of

the Academy,-the first step in his road to fame and

fortune. Also some drawings of the Temple of Isis,

at Pompeii, made by him by moonlight and in stealth,

when on his travels in Italy as a gold medal student of the Academy. The Vice President concluded his paper by promising to recur to the subject, and de-

scribe at some future period the remaining lectures; and by urging on students the advantages of taking

careful notes of lectures and papers, and of becom-

The fourth.

the ancient orders in modern buildings.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Ast. Asiatic Society, 2, P.M.

Mos. Entomological Society, 8.

Pathological Society, 8.

Royal Academy.—Anatomical Lecture, by J. H. Green, Esq.

WED. Literary Fund, 3.

Microscopical Society, 8.

Society of Artin, 8.

Society of Artin, 8.

Royal Society of Antiquaries, 8.

Royal Society of Interature, 4.

Royal Society of Literature, 4.

Royal Society, 8.

PRI. Astronomical Society, 8.

FINE ARTS

THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF DESIGN.

WE have already stated that we may have something to say on the dissensions by which this institution is at present disturbed and its usefulness impaired, when the Committee of the Council shall have made their Report,-if not sooner: and, in the meantime, we have been requested, with the sanction of the Council, to give publication in our columns to the following Report on the French Schools, which Mr. Poynter presented to their body last year,-but which has hitherto been confined to their confidential minutes.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,-Previously to entering upon the exercise of the office to which the Council have done me the honour to appoint me, I considered that a more intimate knowledge of the system of instruction adopted in the French Schools, and its results, would enable me to judge more advantageously of the condition and prospects of our own. I have, therefore, visited Paris with a special view to this subject; and would willingly have extended my journey to Lyons had time per-mitted. But, although it was out of my power actually to inspect any other School than that of Paris, I have had the advantage of obtaining an intimate acquaintance with the Schools of Lyons and Toulouse, through the Reports lately made by M. Charles Texier, commissioned by the Govern-ment to inspect the Schools of Art, which were very obligingly placed in my hands for perusal.

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oganization of the school. Into these changes no of confining the study of the figure to a small and to intrude—they have select class, the Master of which has another class ories have been suffered to intrude—they have all been effected as experience has dictated their necessity, and the result, as is well known, is emi-

nently practical. "The present course of study pursued in the school is as follows:—the elementary study of the fgure, drawing the figure from the round, and from the living model. Hence the pupils enter the classes for drawing and painting flowers, and after passing through the class of architectural ornament (commrough the class of architectural ornament (com-tined with geometry and perspective), finish the course of study obligatory on all who remain in the school by a class of composition applied to manufactures. Thus it will be seen that to perfect the taste of designers and manufacturers, for that is the great point to be attained, a sort of inversion of principle is adopted, beginning with the figure, thence passing to flowers, thence to ornament in general, so as to prepare the student with a sound artistical education for finishing with the course of composition peculiar to the silk manufacture. To give instruction in this course, there are ten professors, including one for anatomy, one for etching, one for geometry and perspective, and one especially for flower painting. The annual expense of the establishment amounts to about 40,000 francs, of which 30,000 are supplied by the city, and 10,000 by the Government; but the citizens of Lyons consider all their literary and scientific establishments as intimately connected with their school, and that its success is greatly promoted by the general knowledge diffused among all classes means of their library, their museums of antiquities and natural history, and other public institutions.

"The school is open five hours every day,-the professors attending from nine o'clock till two in the winter, and from eight to one in the summer. The pupils enter at the age of fourteen. They must le to read and write, and to do the four rules of arithmetic, and are compelled to follow the whole course of instruction if they remain in the school. They are removed from one class to another on the recommendation of the Professor of their class to the Council of Professors. During the first month the pupils draw for the purpose of ascertaining the class in which they are to be placed. Two years' trial are allowed before they are dismissed for

"The Director has abolished the use of heads in lithography as studies for the pupils, finding them, from their general mediocrity, unfit for the purpose. The frequent competitions at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, at Paris, for "tétes d'expression," has enabled him to collect a sufficient number of valuable drawings of this class, mostly prize works, from which the pupils now study to the exclusion of engravings. This example is strongly recommended be adopted in all schools, not only as regards chalk drawings, but also for models, and all other objects of study. The Director greatly desires that casts of the Parthenon marbles may be added to the

"The object of the Government in supporting the Provincial Schools, is to develope art in such a manner as to enable the pupils in quitting them to exercise a profession, each town directing the final studies of the pupils more particularly to its predominant manufacture, and the system upon which the schools are worked is calculated to direct not only the hand and eye of the pupils, but also their laste. For this result, the study of the figure is found by practical experience to be the most in-structive. Geometrical forms alone, though useful to exercise the fingers, are insufficient to give a perception of beauty, and harmony of outline—a fact fully proved by the practice of the School at Toulouse, where the latter mode of study has been substituted for the former. Cold and unmeaning lines convey no intelligence to the pupils, and excite no interest. Hence the pupils who at Toulouse pass from the elementary to the higher classes, are found to be strikingly inferior to those of the same standing at Paris and Lyons. When they come to draw other objects from the round, they are altogether deficient in the knowledge of light and shade, and relief, and even facility of hand. The House seems to have been committed at Toulouse, of M. Marechal, of Metz, an artist also greatly dis-

to attend to; so that, to use M. Texier's words, 'the figure has only half a Professor allotted to it.' It is therefore proposed, as an improvement of the utmost necessity, that the School of Toulouse should be assimilated, in this respect, to those of Paris and Lyons. A pupil who has followed the clementary study of the figure, with the management of the chalk and stump, is found to possess a knowledge of shadows and reflections, which opens to him a thorough understanding of every work in relief before which he may be placed. The School is also deficient in other particulars: the classes sit for two hours only even for the study of the figure -a space of time totally insufficient. There is no class for plants, and the class for demonstrating the composition of ornaments of all dates and styles, described under the Paris School, is much to be desired, not only at Toulouse but at Lyons. There seems to be some difficulty in finding a competent Professor. The Council of Toulouse wish for the establishment of a course of chemistry applicable to manufactures.

I could have wished to take such a view of the manufactures of Paris as might have enabled me to draw some comparison with those of our own country; but as the time at my disposal did not admit of any general inquiry, I confined myself to the subject of stained glass, of which a great quantity has lately been executed in France. The church of St. Denis has been completely fitted up with modern coloured glass, in a style which it is impossible to commend. Part of this glass is designed on the imbecile principle unhappily too prevalent in England, of imitating the wretched drawing and composition of the middle ages, under the notion that this perversion of art is essential to the character of the work. But the glass of this order at St. Denis is destitute of the archæological knowledge and taste in the arrangement of colour, which are the redeeming quality of many English performances of this class. Other portions of the glass at St. Denis are designed on the still more mistaken system of assimilating glass painting to painting on canvas.

"At the royal manufactory of Sevres, great pains have been bestowed on the improvement of stained glass. Being, however, doubtful of the impression to be produced by the view of mere specimens, I did not visit Sèvres, but performed a journey to Dreux, about sixty miles from Paris, where a magnificent chapel, designed by the present King as a mausoleum for his family, has been completely fitted up with Sèvres glass. There is much good art in this glass. There are figures and groups, of which the drawing, composition, and expression are extremely fine, but the colouring is in some portions crude, and in others vapid. There is an insufficiency of the detail essential to the proper effect of stained glass. The draperies are too plain. There is an attempt at diaper-work upon some of the backgrounds, but it is feeble and inefficient, and the general effect of the whole is poor. The artists, with all their merit, and it is great, have evidently been hampered by the principles and practice of painting on canvas, and the mechanical process of joining the glass has been so ill understood that all the subjects are cut up into squares by the ironwork. The same observations will apply to the glass in the chapel erected at Paris to the memory of the late Duke of Orleans, also from the Sèvres

manufactory.
"The modern glass displayed in the new church of St. Vincent de Paul is of extraordinary quality. In this the artist has solved the problem of uniting high art with the conditions required for the due effect of painting on glass. Fine design, drawing, and expression, combined with a perfect conception of the distribution and collocation of colour, and a profusion of detail in the draperies, background, and borders, render it an example of rare perfection in stained glass, not inferior to the ancient in brilliancy and harmony, and immeasurably beyond it as a work of art. Each window contains a figure, or two, on a blue background, richly diapered, within a border of small figures in compartments, formed by green arabesque. This glass is the work

tinguished as a crayon painter. I should consider a fine specimen of his work an important acquisi-tion to our School, if it could be obtained at any

"It is probable that some of the facts and observations which I have now had the honour to submit to the Council, may bear upon circumstances connected with our own establishments, and it is not impossible that comparisons may offer them-selves during my approaching visit to the Provincial Schools. I have therefore hastened to submit these remarks to the Council whilst they were fresh in my mind, and unbiassed by anything arising in the course of my tour of inspection.

"AMBROSE POYNTER."

7th Oct. 1845.

FINE ART GOSSIP .- The arrangement which we announced to our readers as in contemplation for filling up the outstanding vacancies in the list of Associates of the Royal Academy has taken effect : -Mr. W. E. Frost and Mr. P. F. Poole having been added to that body at a meeting of the members on Tuesday last.—Sir W. Allan, R.A., has been elected President of the Royal Scottish Academy.

The Society of Painters in Water Colours held their Annual General Meeting on Monday last ;when the President, Secretary, and Trensurer, Messrs. Copley Fielding, John W. Wright, and F. Mackenzie, were unanimously re-elected.

A correspondent writes to us as follows :- " The introduction of fresco-painting into this country makes it worth while to call to the attention of those who may be interested in obtaining perfectly durable and unchangeable colours, that the sky-blue pigment used in the ancient Egyptian catacombs consists of a glass or fritt coloured by the black oxide of copper; and that the red found in the same catacombs consists of a similar substance coloured by the red oxide of copper. Davy is the authority for the blue colour; but the writer cannot recollect where the analysis of the red fritt is to be found. He believes, however, that it is mentioned in 'Lardner's Cyclopædia,' in the volume on porcelain and glass."-A method of obtaining the red colour has been given in the Athenæum [ante, p. 1028].

Another correspondent puts the following question: "Has it occurred to nobody that, ere long, there will be a wandering arch, as well as a wandering statue of II Commendatore? The marble arch in front of Buckingham Palace must presently move off-whither is it to go? What if these two neglected testimonies to the extravagance of noble and royal dilettantism were to join company-after the fashion of other disconsolate outcasts? At all events, the trouble of finding one site would be spared—Sir Frederick and Master Mathew be pleased, inasmuch as the Duke would look bigger and more beautiful on the smaller arch and Punch have a union to chronicle more eminent than the Spanish match, or the hymencals of the interpreter of the Ojibbeways!"

In Paris, the Academy of Fine Arts has filled up two vacancies which death has occasioned in its ranks: _electing into the chair of Count Simcon the Minister of the Interior, the Count Duchatel, by a large majority over his rivals the Prince de la Moskowa and the Count de Nieuwerkerke ; and into that of M. Bidault, M. Brascassat the painter.

The Association of artist-painters, sculptors, architects and engravers, in the same capital, is busy with preparations for its annual exhibition-which is expected to open, in the Rue de la Chaussée d'Antin, on the 16th or 17th inst.

The sudden and vehement expansion of loyal enthusiasm which displayed itself amongst the good people of Guernsey on the occasion of her Majesty's unexpected appearance in that island, has at length concentrated itself into the figure of a testimonial, which is to point out the place to all future sovereigns who may be voyaging in the Channel, and invite them to a landing. It is also to do a great many things besides. A castellated tower, designed by Mr. Clarke, of Bristol, is to rise on the fortunate shore; from which the pilots will keep their look-out for the royal and other flags, and which is to serve, also, as a telegraph station for Alderney.

ETHIOPIAN SERENADERS.—ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—The celebrated Ethiopian Serenaders, PELL, HARRINGTON, WHITE, STANWOOD, and GERMON, whose Entertainments last Season, at \$\mathbb{\textit{W}}\$. James's Theatre, were so eminently successful, and whose recent performances in the Provinces have been attended with unexampled success, will have the honour of RESUMING their ENTERTAINMENT at the above Theatre on TUESDAY EVENING, December 15th, and of continuing the same EVERY TUESDAY, THURISDAY, and SATTEDAY EVENINGS during the CHRIST-ALS HOLIDAYS. The Public are respectfully cautioned that the Theatre, are published only at \$Mr. Mitchell's Library, \$3., Old Bondstreet. None others are authentic.—St. James's Theatre, pecember 2, 1846.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Illustrated Musical Almanac .- Here is one of those publications which, like soufflés, must be "eaten hot:"—a half-crown folio, edited by Mr. F. W. N. Bayley, illustrated by Phiz, K. Meadows, Weigall, Warren, James Doyle, Hine, and Hamerton; with its Almanae page for the forthcoming year (oddly enough confused by notices of the musical performances of 1846!) and six songs; the words by the Editor-the music by Florimel, Messrs. Wallace, Hatton, Balfe, Crouch, Alexander Lee: also a note of excuse by M. Benedict-printed, we presume, to do duty in place of a song. The work, then, claims notice among the cheap musical publications, the day of which is at hand. Six songs for half-a-crown! Rating matters according to the old scale of prices, Mr. Wallace's 'Lay of May' is, itself, well worth the money. He has the song-writer's first, best, gift-a feeling for melody; but why should he try to Gallicize or Italianize his genial Irish fancy, as we think he must do if we are to judge by certain intervals and appoggiaturas which are, assuredly, thrust in rather than spontaneous? Let him take warning by Mr. Balfe's 'Love and Prayer,' in this very 'Almanac.' Here, under pretext of being serious, the composer opens his hymn with a yawn. Such, and nothing less, is the sudden skip of a seventh, with which the strain commences; another, yet more unlovely, being made by the p flat in the seventh bar of the tune. Until the simplicity of science and the science of simplicity are more thoroughly understood by our composers, we shall have no English music. Mr. Hatton's I then will breathe my vow,' and Mr. Alexander Lee's Rondo 'Hearts will warm the winter,' are both, of their kind, above the average'; and, had the 'Musical Almanac' no other attractions, would entitle it to patronage.

Waiting an opportunity to speak of a few other more ambitious publications, here are Nos. 6 to 9 of The Music Book. Mr. Balfe has set the graceful Venetian Gondolier Song, by Mr. Milnes; in this, as in his *Love and Prayer,' starting off by a forced oddity of interval which neither lagoon nor Lido nor traghetto of the 'Sea Cybele' would own. Itis, inshort, a Boulevard Barcarole. Mr. T.G. Reed has tried to set a lyric often attempted before-Campbell's 'O how hard it is to find'-words which never have been, and hardly can be, well mated with music. Were composers at all in the habit of considering the phrasing of the rhymes which they take in hand—the punctuations, and pauses required, so as to make song carry sense,this charming little poem would have been left alone, by common consent, as utterly unmusical in its structure. Mr. Reed's solution of its difficulties is ingenious; but does not produce an attractive song. Mr. Romer's 'Voyage of Fancy' is a graceful duett in thirds and sixths: but how far this is from real duettwriting, the two-part songs of Jackson of Exeter and other old English composers-the more recent specimens by Mr. Macfarren, Mr. Hullah, and (most eminent of all) Dr. Mendelssohn, sufficiently at test. The editors of 'The Music Book,' we repeat, must be satisfied with nothing short of the best of the best, if they mean their enterprise to succeed.

To close our notice of cheap music:—let us mention, that Mr. Novello's sixpenny edition of 'The Messiah' [ante, p. 795] has reached its fifth number; and that on the 1st of last month the publication of 'The Creation' commenced under the same auspices and in the same form. Some of the chorus pages are, perhaps, too crowded; and, for the guidance of "the many," an explanatory note or two might have been a welcome addition—as, for instance, in 'He shall feed his flock,' to call attention to the practice of relieving the great length of that lovely air by transposition of its first verse, and to the authority on which this innovation has crept in. But the very minuteness of our exceptions shows how little

there is to criticize in this excellent and useful publication,

Mr. and Mrs. Severn's Concert.—We have so earnestly asked for concert-music as distinct from opera or oratorio airs, choruses, &c.,—so long speculated on the revival of the Cantata, as an event sure to come to pass,—that Mr. Severn's Serenata, 'The Spirit of the Shell,' which formed the first act of his programme, had great interest for us. In some respects, the experiment could hardly have been less completely made. The poem—a vision of two lovers on the sea-shore, who, while listening to the sea-shell's murmured legends of past disasters, are themselves surprised by the rising storm, and only just rescued by being drawn up the cliff.—is perilously grotesque; as the following lines may serve to show:—

A mother, half frantic, is seeking her son;
A father his daughter, his only one:
The affaned, the lov'd of the village, 'tis known
Off rove on the sands, in the moonlight, alone:
And many bold hearts, young and buoyant with hope
Seek the haunts of the lovers with torches and ropes!

Then, Mr. Severn has hardly vigour or experience enough to conduct to its close a comparison of such length; which demands even more power than an act of an opera, inasmuch as there can be neither action nor scenery to help. Still, 'The Spirit of the Shell,' as a complete work—as something having a story-and as admitting the alternation of solo concerted pieces and choruses,-was found interesting by the audience; and convinces us that a better work of its class might travel Great Britain from the Land's End to John of Groat's House. In some respects, Mr. Severn showed a due comprehension of his school and his public. The unaccompanied quartett (not to call it glee) is a device that is sure to tell with us, and it was, accordingly, encored. For the rest, the serenata is principally carried on by the employment of a soprana (Miss Birch), a tenor (Mr. Lockey), and a chorus of narrators and spectators. The movement 'Sec, see,' though oddly written, had still the right spirit. A sort of finale rondo, for Miss Birch, was too much in the cut of the opera cavatina to please us. Indeed, our satisfaction arose mainly from the choice of form in the composition, and the realization of our expectation that it is one which an audience would relish. The second act was miscellaneous: consisting largely of Mr. Severn's canzonets, trios, &c.,in addition to the parties mentioned, by Miss Dolby, who was in very good voice, Mrs. Severn, Miss Solo-mon, and Miss Cubitt. Messrs. Allen, Shoubridge, Hawkins and Wetherbee also appeared,—or were to appear; Mr. John Parry sang; and Mr. Webb played Spohr's dramatic concerto,

HAYMARKET.—On Saturday last, a sort of musical vaudeville, in one act, entitled 'The Pretender,' was produced. The escapades of Prince Charles Edward, or of some other of the Stuart race, seem as frequent topics on the modern stage as was once in the old French drama the story of Troy. The unfortunate Prince was performed by Mr. Braid; who is conducted, in disguise, by an Irish adherent, Captain O' Neill (Mr. Hudson), to a place of refuge, where, of course, though shelter is temporarily obtained, new perils are encountered. All the parties presentwell as the mistress of the domicile to which they have resorted, _are Hanoverian; and one, a Captain Cocker of the militia (Mr. Buckstone) is officially engaged in the pursuit of the princely fugitive. Such being the state of matters, O'Neill resorts to a ruse-that of turning the Chevalier, who has assumed the incognito of a rough Highlander, out of doors for bad conduct. Other stratagems are then practised with the view of retarding immediate pursuit. A young lady by name Mary (Miss P. Horton), with whom O'Neill is in love, dresses herself up as the Pretender; and detains Cocker by tempting him, in her new character, with offers of promotion, to let her go. The trick is at length discovered by her aunt :--but sufficient time having thus been given for the Pretender's escape, the curtain falls on that assurance. which we have described was admirably performed by Miss Horton; and a duett between herself and Mr. Hudson was deservedly encored. The music is by Mrs. G. A. à Beckett.

Sadler's Wells.—On Monday last, Sir Bulwer first of the Sacred Concerts at Crosby Hall. We pet ceive, by advertisements, that a series of similar discovery.

Clara Douglas being supported by Miss Laura Adisson. On Thursday, were performed 'Damon and Pythias' and 'The Honey Moon,' Both these dram are so seldom acted, that they are curiostics on the London boards. The first is too melo-damasis for the approbation of good taste—the latter one of the most elegant and poetic comedies in our language. The merits of the company at this theatre are so well known that it is unnecessary to criticize the acting. It may suffice to add, that both pieces were rehearsed with care—and that there was the usual attention to the mise en scène.

OLYMPIC.—The management has wisely shelted both its new comedy and its Shaksperian travety; and reproduced Sir John Vanbrugh's 'Relapse,' which again attracts audiences. They have, borever, added to it "a new historical drama, called 'The Red Cap, or the Prisoner of Vincennes,' by 'Thomas Archer, comedian';—the piece, which is in two acts, being probably, a translation. The story is not ill told, and the situations are effective—but the dialogue is devoid of all elegance, though ocasionally not without point. The hero is The Prince of Condé (Mr. Leigh Murray); who is confined by the Cardinal Mazarin in the Donjon of Vincennes, whence he is delivered by the contrivance of the Duchess de Montbazon (Miss Charles), and Griman (Mr. Maynard). The former is disquised, for the nonce, as Marie Michon, the proprietress of the Rel Cap,—an inn frequented by the soldiers of the forcess.

St. James's Theatre. French Plays. It would seem, from Mr. Mitchell's careful announcement of Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme' and 'Bertrand et Raton' with strong casts, as if he were aware that the entertainment hitherto given to the frequenters of his gay little theatre had been Lenten, rather than as befits the approach of Christmas. We imagine that our correspondent was within, rather than beyond, the truth, when [ante, p. 1149] he described the repertory of Parisian drama as, just now, singularly impoverished :- but, in any case, Mr. Mitchell's present company does not lend itself very easily to such combinations as involve a nightly change of performances. Mdlle. Brohan, though clever and piquant, is not (to quote the criticism of a veteran Parisian, which "crept into our ear" the other evening), the classical soubrette of old French comedy, being sharp rather than blithe-angular, and unfinished. Yet as little is she available as a vaudeville actress. Her Fanfinette in 'Le Bon-homme Richard' wants breadth and geniality. It is too genteel-for those, at least, who have seen the original "creation" by Madame Dupuis at the Theatre Palais Royal, ... Then, M. Perlet must needs now be used charily; so as not to waste the remains of one of the most complete and gay comedians whom the French stage has lately possessed. These thing, however, make a double allowance of waltzes and quadrilles from the orchestra, and a double length of pause between the acts, necessary to fill up the evening. With regard to the rest of the corps.—M. Rhozevil, as all the world knows, is rather the actor who has kept good company than the first-rate actor. That M. Cartigny is as racy as ever, his Capitaine Copp, in 'La Jeunesse de Henri V.,' abundantly testifies. M. Langeval is a satisfactory second gentleman Mdlle. Celine Vallée so confident of her own good looks and graces as almost to persuade a part of her audience to acquiesce in the flattering fiction._while Mdlles. Deluc and Khin make good figures by way of filling up. Mr. Mitchell did ill to part with M. Lienard, -one of the most useful and agreeable actors for a regular troupe whom we recollect. losing sight of the difficulty involved by perpetual change of performances his company has a general efficiency and his appointments have a liberality which bear out our opinion of him, often expressed, as one of the best of managers.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—There has been no lack of musical entertainment this week. On Monday, the third concert of the Society of British Musicians took place—at which Mendelssohn's Quntett in E flat was particularly well played; the leader being Mr. Thomas. On Monday, too, was held the first of the Sacred Concerts at Crosby Hall. We precive, by advertisements, that a series of similar cis-

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racter is in proberve that ments keeps fivolous, cha as destroying advert to the it may conce of programmi will not be forening, the Handel's 'Sc. We owe it week of prom

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fivolous, character, which are largely complained of asdestroying the taste of the public. But we cannot advert to the subject without again begging all whom advert to the subject. Without again begging all whom it may concern to discountenance the scrap-system of programmers as much as possible. The public will not be forced, but may be led. On Wednesday evening, the Sacred Harmonic Society performed Handel's 'Solomon,'

We owe it to M. Jullien to say, that his farewell week of promenade concert-giving at Covent Garden, music, as well as to those mercurial souls whose ideas of Art do not get beyond a polka or quadrille tune. He gave a Beethoven evening: and, on another on, two movements of a Symphony by M. Rouselot. The last, however, were rendered inaccessible to any one desiring a quiet hearing of them, by the postless crowd which filled the theatre. Covent Garden, we presume, is now handed over to its new tenants; who have no time to lose—so extensive is to be the reconstruction. The Builder tells us, that M. Benedict Albano "proposes to take down the audience part of the theatre, from the ceiling to the top of the ralls under the pit, and including the walls under the galleries and boxes throughout their whole height, and to rebuild the latter so as to increase the size of the pit and the area between the fronts of the oxes, and from the fronts of the galleries to the nium. Two new stone staircases will be formed om the level of the corridor behind the ground or nit tier of boxes, to the height of the highest boxes." We may add, that the theatre, when thus rebuilt, is to be capable, it is said, of holding an audience larger by some hundreds than that of the "old house." There one thing, however, more important than sizeto wit, such resonance as shall assist, not impair, the musical effect. Here we may mention, on the authority of our contemporaries, that the managers of the Corent Garden Opera, determined to leave their rivals "not a leg to stand upon," are going to give ballet Rumour names Mdlles. Elssler as well as opera. and Dumilatre, MM. Petitpas and Perrot, as among the parties engaged. Meanwhile, Mr. Lumley is said to be actively making new engagements. The name of Madame de Montenegro is mentioned as among his singers-and we are told that his orchestra will probably include Signor Cavallini, the admirable clarionet player, and Signor Raboni, first flute at La Scala, among the players brought from Milan. There has en, also, a talk of Herr David for his leader. Such a first-class artist as we know this gentleman to be, would be a great acquisition to our London music. Had our Royal Academy been managed on anything like system, there ought, by this time, to have been no necessity for scouring France, Germany, and Italy, in search of orchestral players. Meanwhile, way of counter-attraction to all these new and old stars, Mr. Bunn is, by some, said to have secured Madame Viardot Garcia for his spring season. Bondman, Mr. Balfe's new opera, is in a forward state; and we suppose may be expected before Christman

A musical friend writes to us from Milan, "All other news with us seem absorbed by the present interest excited by the court of Rome, and its measures in favour of progress, &c. As regards our art, there is nothing save mediocrity to speak of. At La Seala, Mille. Hayes, your countrywoman, has the ear and the favour of the public. Her voice, owever, is not powerful enough for the theatre. The tenor, Breve(?) has a very strong and extensive toice; but the quality of it is not agreeable and, unfortunately, he does not know how to sing. Marini is very good in the part of Mosé, and in 'L'Italiana'—but he is, too often, out of tune. The enor Calzolari, is heard to great advantage in the latter work; but he is merely a graceful and light singer, who produces no effect in serious opera. With regard to the other men of the company, one may quote Dante's well-known

Guarda e passa.

During the Carnival, however, La Scala will have the best company now to be got together in Italy-La Tadolini, Signori Moriani, De Bassini, and Marini. Rossi is commissioned to write an opera—
'laura Contarini;' the text by Signor Jannetti—

acteris in progress at Pentonville. It is pleasant to observe that the increase of these better entertainments keeps pace with those of a more mixed and timelous character, which are largely complained of other of Rossini's operas, "Mathilda di Shabran," has been revived at Florence. With each new fulfilment of our prophecy that Italy must return towards Rossin's music, our impatience at the maestro's obduracy increases. It is to be feared that, whatever be the fate of 'Robert le Bruce,' it will have no serious influence on his determination. A story is abroad, that, on some old acquaintance meeting him in Bologna, and asking whether it was true that he had been at work again,—"Yes," replied the maestro carelessly, "I have been adding a stall to my stable!" The Italian journals announce that the new 'Gli Orazj,' by Mercadante, has entirely succeeded. We know no music by the maestro—ingenious, scientific, and sometimes impassioned though he be—which approaches the grandeur and passion of the duet Svenami,' in Cimarosa's setting of the same story.

There is little recent news from Germany, beyond the announcement of the success of Herr Eckert's opera of 'William of Orange,'-which was produced at Berlin on the 19th of last month.

The success of Miss Faucit's personation of the Antigone in Dublin has led to the production in that capital, for the same actress, of the 'Iphigenia in Aulis' of Euripides. The Irish literati, it would seem, accept it as a national triumph. The music was furnished by Mr. Levey,—the musical director to

The celebrated Danish Poet, Oehlenschläger, has added another to his list of dramatic poems,—by a tragedy called 'Hamlet;' which was produced at Copenhagen early in November, on the sixty-seventh birthday of the author-with the utmost success. At the close of the performance, the poet's bust was crowned by the artists; and a complimentary song was sung by the audience, in the enthusiastic foreign Further, the King of the Danes, has since conferred the rank of nobility on M. Oehlenschläger; and given him, besides, a commandership of the royal order of Danebrog.

MISCELLANEA

Paris Academy of Sciences .- Nov. 23 ,- M. Bous singault communicated the result of an experiment in feeding cattle with salt mixed with their fodder. He made his experiment with six young bulls. Three of them, aged between 7 and 8 months, and weighing together 434 kilogrammes, were fed during a period of 44 days with from 13 to 14 kilogrammes of hay per day, and 102 grammes (about 3 ounces and a half) of salt. The other three were fed with the same quantity of hay in proportion to their weight, without salt. The results were as follow:-The animals to which salt was given gained in weight 46 kilogrammes in the 44 days; those which had no salt, 45 kilogrammes.—A paper was received from M. Chevreul on the causes of insalubrity in towns, and the means of destroying them. M. Chevreul considers the chief causes to be the immediate vicinity of burial-grounds, the infiltration from the fosses d'aisance, the organic matters from houses which enter the earth, and the escapes from gas-pipes and emanations from the public sewers. His first remedy consists in the introduction of atmospheric oxygen-in other words, pure air and light, wherever there exist organic substances susceptible of becoming insalubrious by decomposi-tion. His reason for this is the tendency of oxygen to convert organic matter into water, carbonic acid, and azote, and the influence of light in promoting this tendency. A necessary consequence of this recom-mendation is wide streets and court-yards, of sufficient size for the air and light to penetrate freely. Another recommendation is the planting of trees in situations where it is difficult to have a supply of water from fountains to keep the surface clean. This recommen-dation is founded upon the fact that trees absorb matters liable to decomposition, and thus prevent their being injurious to the inhabitants. M. Chevreul considers it to be highly essential to the salubrity of a town, that its burial-places should be at a considerable distance from it.—M. Leverrier laid before the Academy the last portion of the calculations which led to the discovery of the new planet. The whole, forming not less than 954 printed pages, will be published in a few days in the Annuaire de la Connaissance des Temps.—M. Dumas gave an account of some experilecturer said, the whole church was in a dilapidated

ments made in his laboratory with explosive cotton.. M. Pelouze communicated a note from MM. Forbes and Gelis, in which they state that the explosion produces not only water and vitreous vapour, but also a considerable quantity of a evanic compound .- M. Dumas mentioned an armourer who renders various substances explosive by plunging them in a simple solution of chlorate of potass.—M. Gaudin announced that he has discovered a means of giving a peculiar colour by means of heat to explosive cotton, which will at the same time distinguish it from common cotton and diminish the aqueous principle.—A letter was received from the Minister of the Interior requesting that a committee might be formed to prepare improved tables of mortality, and for the collection of statistical documents with a view of ascertaining whether it would not be possible to establish a pension fund for the benefit of aged persons of the working classes of both sexes on their paying a slight contribution during the period when they are able to labour. The Academy immediately formed the committee .- A letter was received from M. Léopold Pilla stating that on the night of the 4th ult., when near Girgenté and Sciacca, the master of a merchant vessel saw at a distance a great light, which he at first supposed to be a vessel on fire. With the intention of giving assistance, he sailed towards the spot; and, to his great surprise, saw issuing from the sea an immense flame, with a large quantity of smoke, in the midst of which were globes of fire, which fell at a great distance and with considerable noise. The flames appeared to be a mile in circumference. M. Pilla thinks this may have had some connexion with the earthquakes which were felt about the same time on the coast of Italy.—A letter was received from M. Laurent, captain of engineers at Havre, in which he states that his mathematical calculations have led him to the following deduction, namely that... "If the universal attraction extends with any degree of speed, magnetism is only polarized weight, and the diurnal, annual, or secular variations are purturbations in every respect analogous to the rotation of the plane of polarization in luminous phenomena,"

Model Lodging-Houses for Females .- One of these, in Newton-street, Holborn, has been opened for the reception of females. The inmates are principally servants out of place, persons who obtain a livelihood by needlework or artificial flower-making, clearstarchers, and workers in fancy paper, &c. The accommodation is far superior to what might be expected, and the greatest order prevails thoughout the establishment. Each lodger is provided with a separate bed. On the basement there is a kitchen, with every requisite for cooking, a good fire, and two boilers, with water boiling every morning at seven o'clock. Round the kitchen are small cupboards, with different locks; one of these is appropriated to the use of each lodger. On the ground floor is a work room, for persons at needlework; there is also a washing room, with every convenience. The charge is eighteenpence a-week. As this system has been found to work well, the promoters intend to construct similar establishments in all neighbourhoods where the industrious portion of the poor reside.

Church of St. Mary, Redcliff. At the Bristol Athenaum, Mr. Scaly delivered an address upon the Gothic architecture of the magnificent church of St. Mary, Redcliff, in that city. The lecturer was of opinion that a Norman church formerly stood upon the site of the present building; and said it was unquestionable that there was a chapel dedicated to St. Sprite (St. Espirit, or the Holy Ghost) close to the spot in the reign of Henry III. The earliest records in relation to any church of St. Mary, Redeliff, were dated 1246 to 1287; and consisted of indul-gences granted by certain bishops upon condition of visiting the church, contributing towards the repair of the same, and praying for the souls of those interred therein. Judging from the architecture, the lecturer was of opinion that the present building was begun about the early part of the 13th century, and occupied a period of about 30 years or upwards in its completion. The north porch (in a room over which Chatterton pretended to find the Rowleian manuscripts) was unique as a specimen of beautiful architecture; there was nothing in this country that resembled it,-but at the Monastery of Batalha, in state, and was fast crumbling to pieces; and unless funds for its complete restoration could be obtained, the most magnificent parish church in the empire would fall into ruins .- Morning Paper.

The Needles. — A most important discovery has been made by Commander Sherringham, of the Dasher surveying vessel,—of a great error in the Admiralty charts representing the depth of water and some dangerous sunken rocks in the Needles passage. For many years, there have appeared in the charts issued from the Hydrographic Office marks of soundings pointing out sunken chalk rocks in the narrow passage, with the water over them not exceeding three or four fathoms: and, in consequence, there is an order in force from the Admiralty that no captain of a ship of the line is to make that passage, down or up the Solent, to or from the channel, through the Needles. The Dasher sur-veying vessel has been occupied in surveying and sounding the water over the shoals, and in the channels, bays, &c.; and a week or two since came to the Needles, and minutely examined the passage between that part of the Isle of Wight and the Shingles, including Allum Bay, &c. Soundings were taken in three lines over the supposed dangerous chalk rocks,—the width being 500 yards; and the leads were dropped as quick and as close as possible, first from a boat, and afterwards from the Dasher:when it was ascertained that at low water there was never less than 5 fathoms, or 30-feet water, over every part; and that a line-of-battle ship could with ease work out to sea by that channel, much quicker when the wind is from the east than by having to beat up from Spithead to the Nab-light and round by Bembridgeledge. A full report of this important fact, with a descriptive chart, has been made by Commander Sherringham, and transmitted to the Admiralty .- Herald.

The Worksop Spreadoak .- The celebrated roof of Westminster Hall, the span of which is among the greatest ever built without pillars, is little more than one-third the width of the Worksop Sprendoak :- the branches of which would reach over Westminster Hall, placed on either side of its trunk, and have nearly thirty-two feet to spare, and its extent is nearly thirty feet more than the length, and almost four times the width of Guildhall in the city of London. The rafters of Westminster Hall roof, though without pillars, have massive walls on each side to support them; but the tree-boughs, of sixteen feet more extent, are sustained at one end only. Architects, who know the stress a staircase, of even eight or ten feet in width, has upon the wall into which the side is built, can alone fairly estimate the excessive purchase which branches on either side, spanning from outbough to outbough 110 feet, must have on the central trunk .- The Plough.

To Correspondents .- W. W .- E. W. D. B .- C. G .- Phy-

To Correspondents.—W. W.—E. W. D. B.—C. G.—Physicus—II. O.—W. F.—Discipulus—received.

Dr. Gustaf Kombst.—We have received a letter from Mr. Lindsay, of Edinburch, in reference to our mention of the above lamented gentleman; wherein, after speaking in approbation of his Ethnographic Map, we added that since its appearance he had "come to an untimely end—we fear through that lack of provision for scientific men which so unhappily distinguishes our country." Mr. Lindsay earnestly objects to the inference which these words imply; and, as the friend of Dr. Kombst, affirms, on the faith of evidence within his own private knowledge, his disbelief that the death of Dr. Kombst (who was suddenly missed during the voyage to Norway) was other than accidental. The matter was alluded to by us merely as a suspicion arising out of the circumstances, and commonly entertained. We have pleasure in publishing Mr. Lindsay's denial: but must observe, at the same time, that as it rests mainly on private convictions formed by reasonings to which the public have not access, we can offer it only for what it may be worth as Mr. Lindsay's opinion—certainly not as a contradiction of the more distressing inference. We beg to suggest, to the friends of Dr. Kombst, the propriety of furnishing the public with some notice of the life of a man whose eminence was so clouded by political persecution and personal misfortune.

Leaden Cisterns.—We are unable to answer the question of a correspondent who asks us for the address of "John Robinson, M.B."

Bene discessit has addressed us in the same sense as "Senex" in the latter's letter of to-day; which, our present correspondent will see, renders the publication of his letter

unnecessary.

Mr. Thurnam has written to request that we would correct the error in his name which is made in our notice [ante, p. 1215] of his book on the 'Statistics of Insanity.' He informs us, too, that his data were not collected on the field of a single institution—nearly all the British and some of the foreign asylums having furnished him with his facts.

Erratum .- P. 1215, col. 3, l. 24, for 'Hagol' read Lugol.

8, NEW BURLINGTON-STREET, Dec. 5, 1846.

MR. BENTLEY

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